

CANADIAN GROWROOM SECRETS

HIGH TIMES

OCT 405



**CALIFORNIA'S
EXOTIC
POT
STRAINS**



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MARLEY**

KID CUDI
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ACTIVIST
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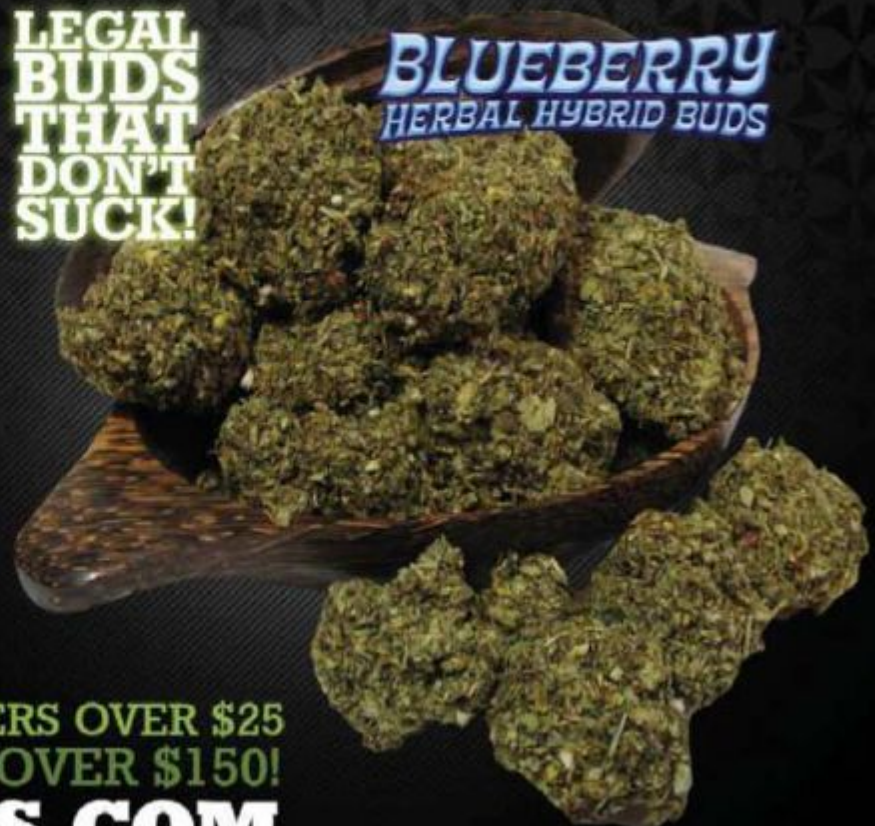
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weeds
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TV AT ITS BEST

Tired of pH Pens and Complicated Feed Charts? Amazing System Uses New pH and PPM Technologies So You Can

Have you had enough of all those mind numbing complicated feed charts, schedules, pH-PPM pens, meters, different feed rates and all kinds of other hard to figure out gadgets? It's messy. It's time-consuming. It's virtually impossible to figure out, let alone get it right. Plus, all those bottles of calibration solutions, pH-up, pH-down chemicals and the tiny holes they burn into your shirts and pants.

You've been frustrated asking: "Hey, will somebody just give me a fast, easy and simple to use bigger yield getting nutrient flowering system?"

Advanced Nutrients listened to you. The answer is yes. You'll find out how in just a minute.

But first a little about the charts, schedules and programs. Heck we invented the things to begin with, and since then all the other nutrient companies have got in line and followed like a shadow with their own feed charts and take on things. This whole nutrient thing has gotten out of hand, and a whole lot more complicated. We never intended for it to get this way. We had created an industry wide monster and had to make things right... because there had to be an easier way.

Now You Have the Nutrient Flowering System You Asked For

When we decided to create the world's easiest to use and most powerful flowering system, it was important that we get it right. So we interviewed hundreds of growers worldwide, just like you, to find out exactly what you wanted from your hydroponics nutrients.

And guess what? It was back to work we went. We gathered up the team of 12 scientists with their army of research assistants and "worked our butts off" over the next 33 months, reworking everything from the ground up and made it purpose-built to give you a continuously bigger yield producing punch than ever before, streamlining your workload. That's why you'll certainly appreciate the Bigger Yields Flowering System. It takes all the guesswork out of you getting the biggest yields, no matter what level of gardener you are.

Think about it, a Flowering System that will give you...

- Proven Bigger Yields
- Potent, Easy Mix & Use Formulas
- New, Powerful, Flower Fattening Formulas
- Formulas That Work Together for Your Biggest Yields
- A Driving Push that Flowers Your Plants to Their True Genetic Potential
- pH-PPM Perfect - No More Balancing Your pH and PPM Ever Again!



Look, the system automatically takes care of your entire plant

Finally Someone Who Gets It

Never being one to get in over my head, I've always kind of stuck with a base nutrients two-part and a bloom booster. My friend said I'd see bigger harvests using your System. But I was scared it would make more work for me. But when I looked at your System I realized you guys really understand what it's all about and have it all figured out. So I got two Bigger Yields Bundles (Hobbyist and Expert) and put them together like the chart says, along with the new Sensi base. Not only was mixing this stuff easier than ever, but I didn't have to pH it and I also found that the plants grew quicker and the bloom time was shorter but a larger harvest. Your system worked better than expected. Much thanks for getting it right.

Mark, from Gainesville, Florida

From Hamburger Millionaires to Bigger-Harvest Hydroponics... How You Can Use the Time-Proven-Power of a "System" and Get Your Bigger Yields Advantage "Right Now"

Ever wondered why so many savvy people spend millions of dollars to buy a McDonald's franchise?

I realize you're probably saying to yourself right now, what the heck does this have to do with me getting bigger yields? Just hang with me for a few moments and I will explain it all.

It's because the McDonald's system is powerful, consistent, simple and so comprehensively effective that owning a McDonald's franchise is literally a license to print your own money.

And that's not all, even first-time business owners make big bucks running the McDonald's system. Because the entire well being of your business has been thought out and everything your business needs is taken care of for you. All you do is follow the system and harvest your big piles of cash.

What does all this have to do with you? The Bigger Yields Flowering System provides a rock solid complete, consistent and comprehensive system that automatically takes care of your entire plant for you at every stage of growth, from its roots to the very top of your flowers and everything in between.

Stop and imagine what it would mean to you to walk into your garden and see the kind of crops you've always known were possible and always dreamed of.

Big fat juicy harvests with towering buds, so sweet and succulent that when other growers see pictures of your crop they say "damn what the heck did you do" and when your friends and customers look at your finished product and take those long intoxicating smells... they'll have that look on their face, which says it all.

New Breakth



5 in 1

Sensi Bloom and Grow-Micro-Bloom level with these extra products to g

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Big Breakthrough "Brain-Dead-Simple" Flowering System Throw Away Your Pens and Meters Forever!

Announcing:
The Bigger Yields Flowering System™

Here's how the Bigger Yields System will continually deliver your dream harvests...

Amped-Up Base Nutrients, Special Supplements and the Simplest Bigger Yields Flowering System Ever Devised!

You told us you wanted to spend even less time and fuss in your garden while getting still bigger harvest rewards. So we developed the System to have a bold and broader range of nutrient availability than you'll ever find with any other company's nutrients.

How did we do it? The Bigger Yields Flowering System nutrients are coated with multiple sources of unique and powerful compounds, causing your Macro and Micro nutrients to become powerful microscopic magnets attracted to your plant's roots.

These coatings give your nutrients tremendous flexibility to work at an extremely wide pH range. Opening up your plants cellular floodgates to rapidly inhale everything you feed them so they steadily make larger and fatter flowers to give you branch-bending-bounties.

Imagine Never Again Having to Check and Adjust pH

Breakthrough Formula



Now contain & combine at a higher level to give you even Bigger Yields Guaranteed

Let me be a bit more specific... the Bigger Yields Flowering System has a proprietary technology called pH-PPM Perfect that automatically puts your nutrient solutions pH and PPM into the "sweet spot" for optimum growth and flowering, and it's built into every growing level of the Bigger Yields Flowering System eliminating you having to fool with pesky pH meters and PPM calculations.

Here's how easy it is: if the water you use to mix your nutrients has a pH between 4.5 and 8.5 pH (and that's pretty much everyone's water) then you'll never have to balance your pH or for that matter ever add a single drop of pH up or down to your reservoir.

And how about never again having to remember complicated measuring and application data?

Well, we heard you. All the base nutrients have been standardized at 4 ml per liter, so mixing and use is ridiculously easy.

Now get this, all the supplements have been standardized as well. You only need to mix 2 ml per liter. In fact it's this way for all the supplements used in all four of the growing levels: Hobbyist, Expert, Professional and Grand Master with each level "stacking" on top of each other, then you choose your base nutrients, and away you go, that's how the Bigger Yields Flowering System works. Incredibly simple, isn't it?

Who Advanced Nutrients Is NOT For

Our nutrients are certainly not for everyone...only growers who want to see a difference and take their gardens to the next level, growers who want to really increase the quality of their product and get bigger yields. Advanced Nutrients is not the right fit for those people who...

• Are Looking for Cheap Nutrients and Could Care less What Goes Into Them – Advanced Nutrients cost more because you get more: High quality and bigger yields, but in order for us to give you that it cost us a lot of money. We use premium ingredients and run a full blown research staff of 12 PhD's, full tech support and a 100% guarantee on all products.

• Don't Take Pride in Their Crop – If they don't care about the quality, appearance or outcome of their harvest. They can look elsewhere. Because everything Advanced Nutrients does is all about our pride in carefully crafting products for growers that do just that: Create off-the-chart quality, pristine appearance and bigger yields.

• Don't Have Compassion For Their Fellow Man – If they're not willing to give a helping hand to people who are in need of their assistance or expertise. Then listen up: Advanced Nutrients gives all the time. We've donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in nutrients and equipment over the years. Obviously giving is the right thing to do.

No Dinosaurs Allowed: Unleash Your Plant's True Genetic Potential and Get 9 Products for the Price of 4

It's now really easy for you to realize the fact that your grower friends are stuck in the "old hard way," formulas and charts that, well... qualify as dinosaurs. Not you though because you'll be using new state-of-the-art flowering technologies and five brand new hydroponics industry breakthroughs that like a world class athlete, will push your plants to their true genetic potential.

Even Better, you'll save more money with the new Bigger Yields Flowering System when you buy the all new 5 in 1 Sensi Bloom or Grow-Micro-Bloom base nutrients along with the Hobbyist Bigger Yields Bundle™. Because it's, exactly the same as getting 9 products for the price of 4, Sensi Bloom or Grow-Micro-Bloom base nutrients now contains and combines at a higher level the award winning products H-2, F-1, Wet Betty and a special blend of Amino Acids when you buy the Hobbyist Bigger Yields Bundle which contains Big Bud, Voodoo Juice, B-52 and Overdrive, you'll also get the Overdrive for Free.

Actually we do mean it when we say award winning products and breakthrough technologies. Let me explain, and these are absolute facts, we're not trying to brag or anything like that (well ok...maybe just a little), and because you're probably not aware of these facts, and of course they're important ones when you're buying the Bigger Yields Flowering System.

• Advanced Nutrients has won every major growing competition in the world, no other nutrient company has even come close to our continuing string of victories.

• Advanced Nutrients is the hydroponics industry's "technologies leader" responsible to date for 31 technological breakthroughs and patents that has elevated the science of hydroponics for the entire industry and made your growing easier and more profitable, including the five new pioneering technologies employed now in the Bigger Yields Flowering System.

Anyway, back to what I was saying, here's the deal. At the Expert Grower Level you get Final Phase for Free. The Professional Grower Level gives you SensiZym for free and at the Grand Master Grower Level you'll receive your Rhino Skin absolutely free.

So go right now and ask the store owner or one of the staff to show you the Bigger Yields Flowering System and remember to ask for your Bigger Yields Bundle. As you have clearly discovered getting bigger yields and bigger savings has never been so easy. Enjoy.

To watch pH-PPM Perfect technology in action go to:
www.advancednutrients.com/ph-ppmperfect

Advanced Nutrients US:
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Advanced Nutrients Canada:
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Cannabis matures in many flavors, colors and sizes. Collect them all!

FREEBIE

Strain Collecting

How's it growing, dank devotees?

When some people find out what I do for a living, one of their first questions is whether one can truly tell the difference between various strains of pot. Some of these folks are daily weed smokers, and I'm often taken aback by the implication in their inquiry—that all cannabis is pretty much the same, and that we, as pot aficionados, are engaged in some form of self-delusion, even snobbery, by seeking to quantify the differences.

In our rarefied world of pot connoisseurship, we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all strains are not created equal, and that an *indica*-dominant, stony Afghani Hashplant is worlds apart from a Cambodian Haze with extreme *sativa*-like characteristics. We dissect the intensity and effects of different highs, favoring one variety as a daytime smoke and an entirely different strain for a nightcap. Flavors and scents do vary, and these subtle nuances play a role in our appreciation of certain hybrids over others.

So it's no wonder that growers, from the hobbyist to the professional, enjoy accumulating varieties to grow and smoke on a regular basis. We feature one such cannabis couple in "The Strain Collectors," starting on page 52: They're enthusiastic not only about acquiring great strains, but more importantly, sharing them. Don't forget to spread the love!

Also in this pot-packed issue, Nico Escondido traverses the canals of Amsterdam for the first installment of his Cannabis Cup pot preview. Bobby Black finds out what it's like selling buds and hash at a real Dutch coffeeshop, and we offer our annual list of the Top 20 Colleges for the herbally inclined. On top of all that, we visit Bonnaroo and the first-ever THC Expo, and explore the connections between pot and creativity in interviews with rapper Kid Cudi, reggae royalty Julian Marley and noted neurobiology author Jonah Lehrer.

As always, we at HIGH TIMES hope that you, our readers, enjoy the issue. Our next one, November 2009, celebrates our 35th year in the business and pleasure of cannabis appreciation. We're glad you came along for the ride!

Kindest Regards,

Danny Danko
Senior Cultivation Editor

HIGH TIMES

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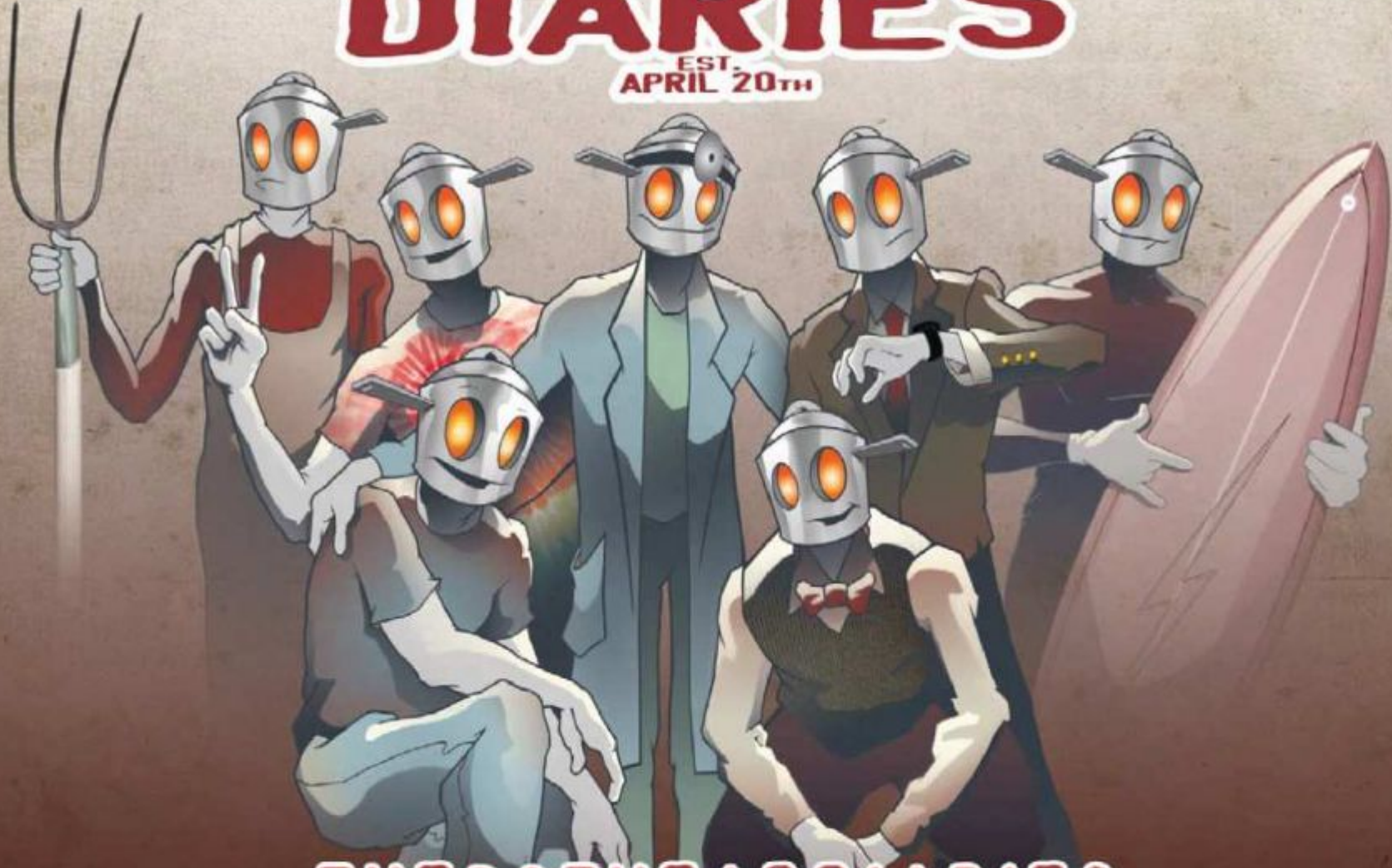


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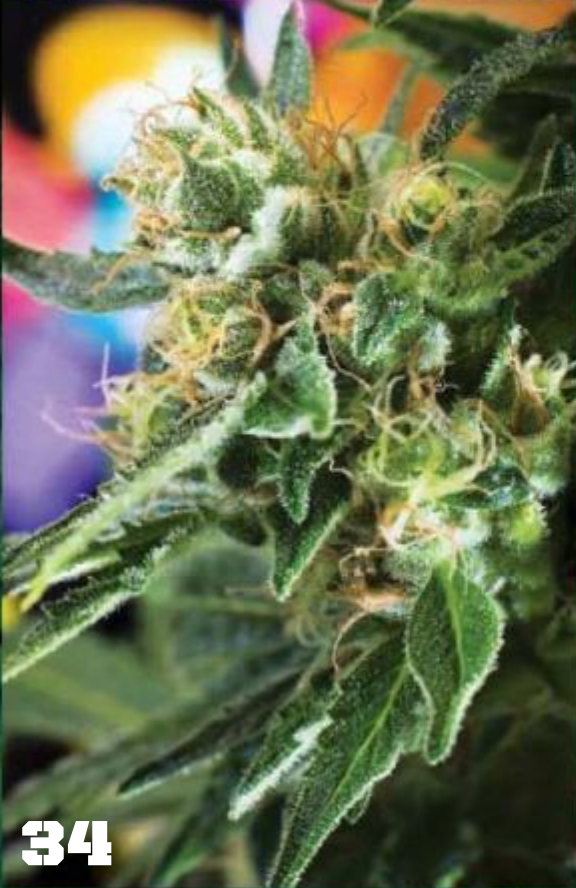
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HIGH TIMES



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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Part I of our series warms up with a preview of the newcomers and potential comebacks at this year's Cup. Coffeshops and breeders give us some insight into possible entries and discuss their philosophy when it comes to the world's premier bud competition, now in its 22nd year. Also included are some guide tips and info for 2009 Cup-goers!

44 COFFEESHOP CONFIDENTIAL

BY BOBBY BLACK

Ever fantasize about moving to Amsterdam and working at a coffeshop? Or wonder what it might be like to own one? In this exclusive exposé, we go behind the smoke and mirrors at two of the city's most popular shops to reveal what it's *really* like to work in the Dutch coffeshop industry.

52 THE STRAIN COLLECTORS

Meet an intrepid cannabis-collecting couple who like to keep several varieties of pot around at all times to have their pick of the multiple highs, flavors, odors and experiences. Also, find out what it takes to start a strain collection of your own.

66 TOP 20 ACTIVIST COLLEGES

Our annual guide to *higher* education ranks the country's best colleges and universities for undergrads interested in marijuana activism, with a little help from Kris Krane, executive director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

72 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH JONAH LEHRER

The 27-year-old neuroscientist, author of the best-selling *How We Decide*, discusses his own "experiments" with marijuana and explains how pot treats anxiety—and also why it's not addictive. This is your brain on weed!



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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

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COVER: FREEBIE STRAIN: CHOCOLOPE FROM DNA
CENTERFOLD: FREEBIE STRAIN: ASSORTED


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FEEDBACK

GLASS NOT ART?

I'd like to respond to D.K.'s letter in the August 2009 issue, in which he states that glass is not art. Although I agree that glass is sometimes overpriced, in the end you're paying for the craftsmanship. I personally believe that D.K. needs to meet some glass blowers and spend time watching them before declaring that the many hours they put into creating each masterpiece is not in the service of art. Glassblowing may not be recognized by the mainstream as a form of art, but most of your readers know the truth.

Anonymous

PLASMA GOOD, L.E.D. BAD

Quantum Devices' Snap-Lites rock! LED manufacturers will never achieve the quality of Quantum Devices. People need to be told the truth and allowed to invest in good technology. Your article on the new plasma lights being developed was an excellent start. Now tell your readers that they should look into the more powerful plasma lamps from overseas. LED's with the proper wavelengths for plant growth still have major issues—even NASA is aware of the problem. This means that high-output, long-lasting LED's that can be used to grow plants won't be happening anytime soon.

Dr. Thomas Parker

PVC IS POISON

Your article about how to produce a pound of pot every three weeks (HT July '09) interested me very much—however, upon inspecting the list of materials, I oppose this system because it uses PVC, a.k.a. the poison plastic. (For more information, go to <http://www.besafenet.com/pvc/about.htm>.) Please inform your readers that they should avoid the use of PVC in their grow ops. And shame on you—I still read every issue, but no more PVC.

Goodpasters

WHITE-LIGHTER CURSE

I may have some insight to provide regarding the "Curse of the White Lighter" (HT July '09). A group of us were leaving a mall one day: Most of us smoked a good amount of weed on a regular basis, as well as cigarettes, and everyone started pulling out the smokes as we made our way to the car. Little did we know that a local police officer was keeping his eye on us. The cop asked my friend, who was in possession of a white lighter, to hand it over—and upon inspecting it, he swiftly put my friend in handcuffs. When my friend asked him why, the cop pointed out some telltale black residue on the bottom of the lighter. That's when I suddenly remembered the curse of the white lighter!

To this day, I refuse to buy white lighters—even the plastic-covered ones—since it's so much easier to spot residue on them as opposed to the darker ones. Is this the true origin of the curse? I think so!

Keith from SoCal



ECSTATIC ISSUE

I was in a borderline altered, ecstatic state when I finished your June 2009 issue. Thank you for this (mentally) synesthetic masterpiece. HIGH TIMES has finished its 30-year transition to enlightenment: Your writing is sophisticated, in-depth, insightful and humorous; your editing is apogee (I've never seen better); and while you've politely said "No thanks" to coke, the

psychedelics/entheogens are starting to make a comeback.

In particular, I want to applaud Paul Krassner's tongue-in-cheek interview with Michael Phelps. Also, thank you for shining some much-needed light on Rick Doblin's incredibly important MAPS Institute. Finally, your *Salvia divinorum* article by David Jay Brown was phenomenal! Brown correctly identified the salvinorin A molecule as a diterpenoid, not a diterpene; seems like four out of five people get this wrong. And I would like to recommend an excellent book on the subject—*Salvia Divinorum: Shamanic Plant Medicine* by Shaahin Cheyene.

We've just renewed our subscription for another three years!

*Sally D. Psychonaut
Oaksterdam, CA*

VANCOUVER ROCKS!

First off, let me say that I enjoy your magazine immensely. But to see you print a letter stating that Vancouver is "a very strange and unfriendly" city that the writer "couldn't recommend as a destination for fellow migraine sufferers" really irritated me! If you can't find pot in Vancouver, then, in my opinion, you are an utter moron. And if you're too stupid to find any medicine in Vancouver for five freakin' days, for all intents and purposes, you are too dumb to smoke pot! Lastly, if you find Canadians "strange and unfriendly," I suggest you look in mirror. Oh, and incidentally, all that "good" weed you smoke in California (while considering BC bud to be "B-grade")—just where the hell do you think the seeds came from?

I suggest you step away from the pipe and leave the smoking to people who know what they're doing, you whiner!

Holley94 :-)

ERRATA

The glass smokeware featured on the cover of our March '09 issue was attributed to the wrong artist. Steve Bates, a gifted glassblower from the East Coast, is the person responsible for this great pipe. We sincerely apologize to Steve.

Send your letters to: Feedback c/o HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Email: hteditor@hightimes.com. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.



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Green House, Alaskan Ice, FEM \$7.61 Flying Dutchman, G Force, FEM \$10.39 Serious Seeds, AK47, REG \$12.29

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The Single Seed Centre



G.I. stoners can rest easy. Top brass is looking the other way.

DON'T PASS, DON'T TELL

Commanding officers in the US Army are deliberately failing to punish or seek treatment for soldiers testing positive for drugs. In May 2009, the Army released a memo issued by four-star Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, the Army vice chief of staff (responsible for managing the day-to-day bureaucracy), and published in *USA Today*. In part, the memo disclosed that hundreds of troops who failed urine tests or had been arrested on drug charges were not facing potential dishonorable discharge. Furthermore, the majority of offenders weren't even referred to the Army Substance Abuse Program, initially established for veterans of the Vietnam War who suffered drug-abuse problems. General Chiarelli revealed that there had been multiple instances of repeat positive tests—some soldiers up to seven times each. In fact, over a third of the soldiers failing piss tests were repeat offenders.

Commanders are under pressure to maintain troop levels in the face of President Obama's pledge to reduce the number of US troops in Iraq from 142,000 to 50,000 by September 2010 and recommit these forces to Afghanistan. Troop levels

have already been depleted by combat-related casualties.

The drug-rehab website Michael's House reported that since 1999, failed drug tests have increased in the Army by 37 percent, and in the Air Force by a whopping 82 percent, so that the actual numbers of troops escaping punishment could be even greater than the Army and other branches of the armed forces admit. Marijuana is the most commonly used drug (primarily for stress relief), followed by cocaine, amphetamines and other stimulants (enabling soldiers to remain alert during long patrols or guard stints).

Moreover, drugs are always available wherever there's a demand—even in war zones. Soldiers can have drugs shipped to them from the States or do the smuggling themselves on repeat tours of duty. Despite the arguable necessity of using drugs just to deal with the warped realities of war, the risks to soldiers are numerous. Impairment on the battlefield can cause a lapse of judgment or improper reactions that put both the user and their fellow soldiers at risk, while drug addiction inhibits adjustment to civilian life.—Mark Miller



JOSS STONED

British soul singer Joss Stone has no reservations about enjoying her success. The 22-year-old says, "If I want to leave here right now and go to Amsterdam, I will."

We dig Stone because she makes a clear distinction between pot and other substances: "I'm not much interested in drugs, apart from the occasional spliff."

Unfortunately, Joss's joint on a recent London outing needs a couple more grams to qualify as a spliff.



SUPERNATURAL SANTANA

Like no other artist, Carlos Santana imbues his guitar with a singular, transcendent voice. Over the course of five decades, his popularity has never waned and his virtuosity has only deepened.

He has long made it his habit to pause mid-show to share what's on his mind. Recently at The Joint at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, the audience cheered mightily when he proclaimed: "We're sick of CNN, CNBC, MSNBC spreading fear, hate, anger, violence. We want to see excellence, kindness, purity, and innocence."

But everyone got extra-vocal when he told the house: "I love playing The Joint. But I don't smell any joints. Well, next time I come back, I want to smoke one with all of you—in honor of Obama."

See Santana at the Las Vegas Hard Rock in September. Check santana.com for dates.

DANK IN THE DUMPSTER

Cinderella stories really do happen. There were the '69 Mets and the 1980 US Olympic hockey team. But now there's the Dumpster, an *indica*-based strain that was discovered in a dumpster on the campus of Ohio State in the early '90s. Obviously, some grower was feeling the heat and had to dispose of his entire operation. But intrepid gardeners rescued the abandoned plants, either took cuttings or replanted, and transformed this "rubbish" into a skunky superstar. It's a big yielder and a quick grow at 55-60 days. It's been grown only on a limited basis thus far, but Dumpster has finally arrived at the Stoner's Ball. Soon everyone will want to dance with her!



These Dumpster buds are 100% organic, grown in soil by Team Death Star.

GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE

Is California the pot-smokingest state in the nation? A recent survey released by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration names Vermont as the actual titleholder. Bear in mind, Vermont has a population of just 620,000, while California's exceeds 30 million. But the Green Mountain State is way greener than anyone knew, boasting the highest incidence of pot use among all age groups: 15.5% of people over 12, and 41.9% of 18- to 25-year-olds, smoked pot in the past year.

HEMP IS A-OK IN THE U.K.

While America still outlaws hemp cultivation, the UK has backed hemp farming since 1993. Moreover, the British government is now



The 2012 Olympic Village will be hempified.

funding the construction of houses made from hemp: The hemp building boom is part of the government's plan to build thousands of new homes in the coming years with a smaller carbon footprint. Experts speculate that the energy bills for the owners of hemp houses could be as low as £150 a year (about \$248).

Dr. John Williams, head of the National Non-Food Crops Centre points out: "If just 1 percent of the UK's agricultural land was used to grow hemp, it would be enough to build 180,000 homes per year."

A number of hemp buildings already exist in the UK, including the Adnams Brewery Distribution Centre in Southwold, which maintains a steady year-round temperature of 54°F—despite its lack of a heating or cooling system—thanks to hemp's outstanding insulation properties. And the Olympic Village accommodations for athletes in the 2012 games, to be held in England, are also being constructed from hemp materials.

TOP 10 STONER JOBS Don't wait in the unemployment line—blaze a new trail!

JOB	DUTIES	PAY/BENEFITS	DOWNSIDE
GLASSBLOWER	You produce mind-blowing bong and pipes that become as cherished as pets by the people who buy them.	Top artists can make a comfortable living. Plus you set your own hours.	Stiff upper body from ultra-concentration, possible third-degree burns, extreme anger when breakage occurs late in the creation process.
COFFEESHOP OWNER	You create happiness and comfort for the international stoner community (check out page 45).	We can only imagine.	A legal tightrope. In Holland, proprietors must follow inane rules to remain in business. In the US, coffeeshops are illegal—but they do exist.
POT PHOTOGRAPHER	You shoot the world's most beautiful buds—and usually get to smoke 'em, too!	There isn't a big market for pot shots, except in these pages. Do it for the love!	Sticky resin all over your camera—not pretty. Or you smoke up your hottest models and are forced to declare bankruptcy.
WILLIE NELSON ROADIE	Need we explain? Great buds, great music, great vibes.	You expected to get paid for this?	You use Willie's guitar as a rolling surface. Ver fired!
HEADSHOP OWNER	Mark up merchandise 300 percent and still make people happy.	Oh, what the hell—mark it up 400 percent!	Still illegal. The Feds could bust in, or the local cops. Have a good lawyer help you set up shop.
OAKSTERDAM PROFESSOR	Teach courses in growing and canna-business at America's institute of <i>higher</i> learning.	Negotiable, we're sure. But don't expect to get tenure.	Somebody smokes up the final exam.
SNOOP'S DEALER	Total access to Rapper Disneyworld, or so we hear.	If you're supplying his whole posse, you should be able to retire in six months.	Quality control is a <i>big</i> part of the job. Otherwise, you may lose your gig, which means that Snoop won't like you anymore—which sounds scary.
MEDICAL GROWER	This is what real sainthood is all about.	It's no secret: There's big money to be made. What's the dividing line between making a living and greed?	Outdoors: paranoia, poachers, deer, cops. Indoors: paranoia, faulty wiring, pests, cops.
POT ACTIVIST	You work to end the War on Weed once and for all! <i>Vive le referer</i> revolution!	Hard-working professional activists at national nonprofits like NORML, SSDP and ASA earn enough to carry on their noble work.	Enough frustration with law enforcement, politicians and general morons to cause ulcers. But these days, triumphs are more frequent!
HIGH TIMES EDITOR	You create the best literature on the newsstands.	The best-paying job ever invented! (The boss may be reading this.)	Deadlines, writing coherent sentences, remembering what month it is.

HIGH ON CLAW MONEY

Claw Money transformed herself from an upper-middle-class Jewish girl into a graffiti legend and fashion designer whose clothes are worn by Kanye West, M.I.A., Santogold and Cameron Diaz. Featured in the 2005 documentary *Infamy*, Claw (a.k.a. Claudia) painted her iconic logo—three claws jutting from a fat black paw—all over New York City and the world, bombing with the legendary crews TC5, FC and her own PMS (Power Money Sex) for over 15 years.

Marijuana use seems very prevalent in the graffiti community.

The cheeba is big in the graf world, because it would calm you down before you went climbing up a scaffold to do a roof spot. And then, after a night of bombing, you def need a victory blunt! Plus, Mary Jane gets your creative juice going.

What role does marijuana play in your creative process?

I've cut down since I have a lot of phone conferences and business meetings. Sometimes pot makes me stupid and forgetful, so I don't like to smoke during business hours. Weed most definitely makes me look at stuff in a different light—mind expansion. I am very hyper and working on 20 different things, so it slows me down and gives me creative tunnel vision, which I need sometimes.



Pot provides creative tunnel vision for Claw Money.

Any message for younger female graffiti writers trying to get in the game—graf or fashion?

Do what you love and let the rest follow; do it to do it and not to make money. When you're doing something just for financial gain (particularly in street art right now), it smacks of fraudulence. My attitude was, I do this because that's what I do. When I started, there was a small female voice. Now that voice is getting louder, and I am continuing to carry that torch.—Danny Danko

Visit clawmoney.com to check out her art, clothes and fashion accessories, and read *Bombshell: The Life and Crimes of Claw Money (power-House Inc.)*, an eye-popping book celebrating Claw's artistic pursuits.

this month in

SHOWBUZZ

FOKY LADY

Actress Megan Fox recently expressed her huge affinity for pot in Britain's *GQ* Magazine: "I can't tell you how much bullshit I've been through because I will openly say that I smoke weed. People look at it like it's this crazy, hippie, thing to do. And it's not. I hope they legalize it ... and when they do, I'll be the first person in line to buy my pack of joints."



Megan loves MJ.

VIKARIOUS LEE

Ang Lee's new film, *Taking Woodstock*, is chock-full of cinematic imagery that supposedly replicates the experience of smoking pot and doing other drugs. At the Cannes Film Festival in

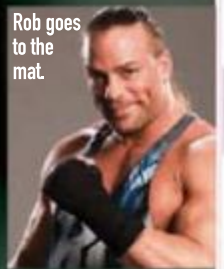


No bhang for Ang.

France, the audience approved, giving the film a 10-minute standing ovation. But Lee's not a toker—he says he's tried it, but "dozed off after taking two puffs." The director reveals that most of his ideas for the *Taking Woodstock* drug scenes were derived from his production crew. They gave the film a big thumbs-up for accuracy.

U DA MAN, VAN DAM!

In 2006, pro wrestler Rob Van Dam was stripped of his world title after being caught with pot in his car. In a recent interview with *BE! Magazine*, he talked about his history with his usual candor: "Considering how burnt-out I was from the travel, I welcomed the time at home. I even asked for more time off when they wanted me to come back. Although I wasn't happy that I had fucked up the plans for the ECW and the WWE, I have always felt proud to draw attention to the great injustice of marijuana prohibition. I've never given a public apology, because I'm not sorry when truth is exposed."



Rob goes to the mat.

HIGH ON THE HILLS

Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag are that paradox of the 21st century: unknown celebrities. They appear in various reality-TV shows, and the paparazzi cover them—we know not why. But even the lamest of the lame have a right to medical marijuana. Pratt and Montag apparently hold medical-marijuana recommendations; they've been spotted a few times darting into medical-marijuana dispensaries in West Hollywood.



Doobie duo.

BIKING FOR MEDICAL BUDS

There's still time to join Ken Locke's Tour for Compassion. Right now, somewhere in America, Locke is riding his bike—accompanied by scores of pedaling supporters—in order to bring attention to the rights of medical-marijuana patients.

While cutting down trees in 2001, Locke was struck in the head by a loose limb and severely injured: Doctors had to remove a piece of his brain and then reconstruct the shattered portion of his skull. After surgery, Locke began taking pharmaceuticals for pain, but the pills caused serious migraines and two seizures. Locke asked his doctors for medical marijuana, but was denied access.

He then decided to forgo his prescribed medications and replace them with marijuana on his own. The improvement, he says, was immediate: Marijuana decreased the headache pain, allowed him to return to his normal weight, eliminated his nausea and stomach cramps, and lifted him out of depression.

This is Locke's second ride for medical pot. The first was in 2006. He proclaims that now is the time for change: "We, as citizens of a country with a Constitution, have watched and endured, for 70 years plus, the lies the federal government has fostered and maintained about medical cannabis—and we know the truth. Patients, citizens, concerned people of our Earth, speak out, stand up!"

Or, in this case, ride really hard!

For more about the Tour for Compassion, visit facebook.com/people/ken-locke-1538616927 or myspace.com/j4j7.



THAT'S ALL SHE ROOT!

Ever wonder what to do with those scraggly roots left over from a successful harvest? Now you can actually smoke them—or, at least, smoke out of them—thanks to master woodcarver Dan Billings, who creates outlandishly cool pipes crafted from your leftovers.

Here's how it works: Send Dan a money order and your root, and he'll send back a finely fashioned piece of marijuana paraphernalia—an item made both for pot and from pot. Double your outlaw fun! Prices start at \$100. Visit elitewoodcarvings.com.



A truly underground pipe.

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In June, the cannabis industry in North America staged a massive coming-out party. The THC Expo was one more milestone on the path to freedom for the cannabis plant.



At the HIGH TIMES booth, fans snatch free copies.



Activist Julia Butterfly Hill.



Miss HT Sarah with a friend.



THC EXPO



A DBRLA body painter renders a pot-themed creation.

A nurse from the Farmacy, an L.A. dispensary, showcases cannabis drinks.



Tommy Chong's electric low rider makes the scene courtesy of Hippy Motors.

When 250 companies intimately involved in pot-related business convene at a major urban convention center, showcase their merchandise at a professional trade show, and have 30,000 cannabis fans show up to purchase tickets, some kind of corner has been turned.

For years, activists and cannabis capitalists have envisioned a time in America when marijuana would be a mainstream commodity, devoid of stigma. If the recent THC Expo in Los Angeles is any indication, that time has arrived.

The THC Expo is the brainchild of Brian Roberts. He's the former owner of THC Clothing, a wildly popular line of T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and stickers that parodied the logos of food products, corporations and sports teams, transforming them into marijuana messages ("Heineken" became "Humboldt," "UPS" became "United Pot Smokers," etc.). A veteran of the trade-show circuit, Roberts wondered whether legitimate cannabis industries would benefit by showcasing their wares in a professional, municipally sanctioned venue. With this year's unprecedented increase in widespread support for legalized cannabis, Roberts decided to find out.

He joined forces with Todd McCormick, the medical-marijuana activist who spent five years in prison following his arrest for growing in 1997. McCormick has been a prominent figure in California's medical-marijuana community since his release. Together, they approached the Los Angeles Convention Center. City attorneys were standoffish at first, but the fact remains that medical cannabis is legal in California. When the authorities were assured that no pot would be sold or smoked, and that those under the age of 18 would be prohibited from entering the area of the convention floor where smoking products were on display, the contracts were inked and the THC Expo became a reality.

When the doors opened for the two-day event, over 1,000 people were standing in line waiting to gain entrance. Inside, consumers were able to browse through aisles of grow gear, smokeware, hemp products, pot publications, and a mélange of offbeat companies hawking everything from art to psychic readings.

Powerhouse seed companies were in attendance as well—Green House, TH Seeds and DNA Genetics—while a host of medical-marijuana dispen-



Glass smokeware vendors did brisk business.

Sarah Diesel of Oaksterdam University.



Don and Aaron of DNA Genetics.

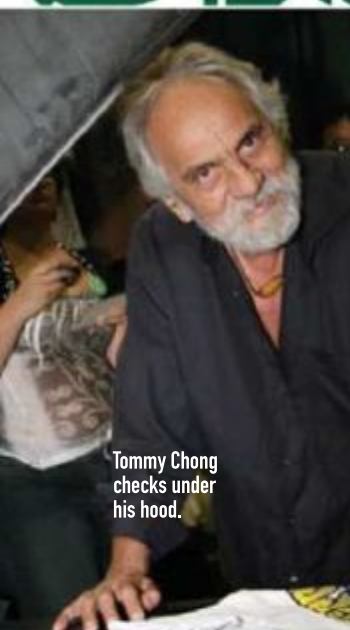


Pot comics Ngaio and Doug Benson.



Debby Goldsberry of the Cannabis Action Network.

SLOW



Tommy Chong checks under his hood.



Arlen and Cathy Trout of U.S. Hemp.



Steve Levine of Dr. Bronner's.



Arjan of the Green House with his Cannabis Cups.

saries welcomed state residents who had not yet secured their medical recommendations. Oaksterdam University demonstrated what higher education is all about by teaching crash courses throughout the weekend on running dispensaries and providing medical marijuana.

High-flying stars made the scene, too. Tommy Chong was mobbed by a loving fan base, while Woody Harrelson, Bill Maher and David Faustino shuffled along shoulder-to-shoulder with the non-celebrity stoners.

The city reaped huge revenues in parking fees, and food sales on the convention floor were astounding (a.k.a. the "munchies" factor). When the weekend was over and the money was counted, the verdict came back: The expo had been an unqualified success. The LA Convention Center requested a return appearance, promising more space, more promotion and, obviously, more money in its pocket.

So what does it take to make marijuana mainstream? Commerce—pure and simple. The THC Expo proved that.—Dan Skye
Visit thcexpo.com.



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BONNAROO'D AWAKENING

Is there a better place in America to be stoned than at Bonnaroo? Our roving reporters endeavor to find out, even if that means dressing up like a giant pot leaf and teepee-ing the crowd during a late night dance riot. *Especially* if it means that...

"Bonnaroo looks like a refugee camp set up by Potheads Without Borders."

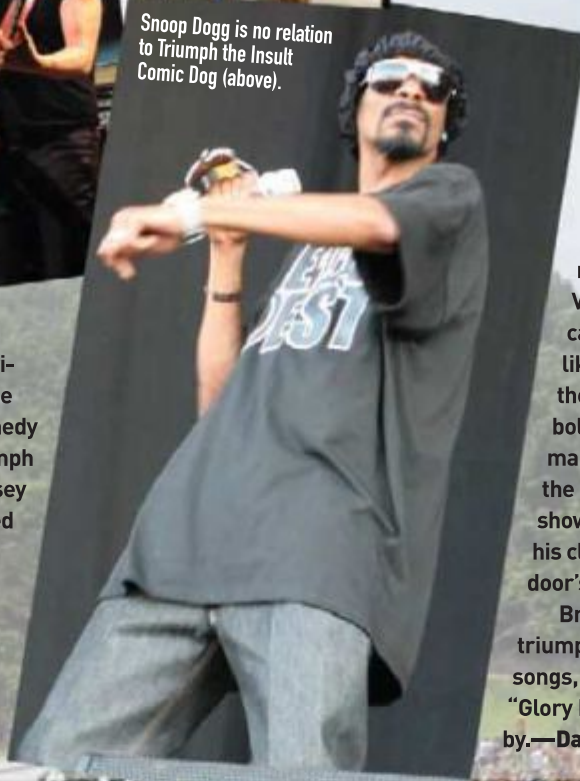
That's Triumph the Insult Comic Dog's hilariously accurate summary of America's best music festival—this year featuring headlining sets from Phish (two nights), Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Snoop Dogg, Beastie Boys, David Byrne, Wilco, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Al Green, the Decemberists and Gov't Mule, with dozens of additional acts and attractions spread across two main stages, three tents, a solar stage, a music lounge, a silent disco, a cinema and an all-night rave arcade.

Bruce Springsteen joins fellow "Jersey Boy" Trey Anastasio and Phish for an unannounced jam session on the final night of Bonnaroo.



Triumph asks Flavor Flav: "How long until 4:20?"

Snoop Dogg is no relation to Triumph the Insult Comic Dog (above).



Holding court backstage among his fellow performers, Triumph shared several other astute observations that he'd made while hosting three nights of top-flight acts in Bonnaroo's comedy tent. For example, using his keen canine sense of smell, Triumph identified the aroma of Bruce Springsteen fans from New Jersey as "weed mixed with Axe Body Spray." Triumph then wondered if there's "anything Phish fans can't make out of hemp—besides deodorant," before advocating hemp dog leashes as a way to enhance orgasm ("a little trick I picked up from Woody Harrelson").

Seriously, though, folks—is there any better place in America to be stoned than at Bonnaroo? Think of the line in *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, when Hunter Thompson

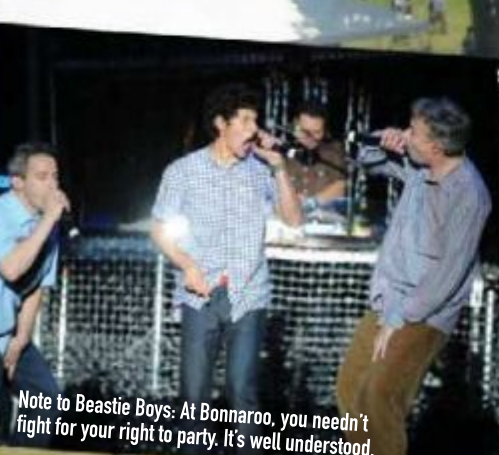
surveys the scene at the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino and realizes it's "what the whole hip world would be doing on a Saturday night if the Nazis had won the war." And now, in turn, realize that Bonnaroo offers us an all-too-fleeting annual glimpse of what the whole hip world would be doing on Saturday night if the hippies had won the war—including music, lights, dancing, hugs, drugs, free love, reasonably priced grilled

cheese, a mushroom-shaped fountain, fire-throwing burlesque dancers and fully compostable "plastic" cups actually made from corn.

Forty years after the first Woodstock Music and Arts Festival, we're still, unfortunately, living through an epoch that's a far cry from the Age of Aquarius. And as the world slowly wakes up a little too late to the fact that the hippies were right, we desperately need places where the young people can catch a little of that old '60s flavor and make it their own.

This year, a handmade sign posted in Centero—the well-trafficked Times Square of this temporary city of 80,000—offered up a "grass or cash" ride directly from Bonnaroo, TN, to the National Rainbow Family Gathering, held this year in New Mexico. And while it's a long way to go—at least metaphorically—from a for-profit music festival with sponsors like Vitamin Water to an anarchistic, cash-free freakfest in the woods like Rainbow, it's good to know that there's space open for someone bold enough to get inspired and make the leap. Or, as Bruce put it in the middle of his 28-song, three-hour show on Saturday, during a take on his classic "Thunder Road": "The door's open but the ride ain't free."

Bruce returned on Sunday to join a triumphantly reunited Phish for three songs, including a rollicking take on "Glory Days." Don't let yours pass you by.—David Bienenstock



Note to Beastie Boys: At Bonnaroo, you needn't fight for your right to party. It's well understood.

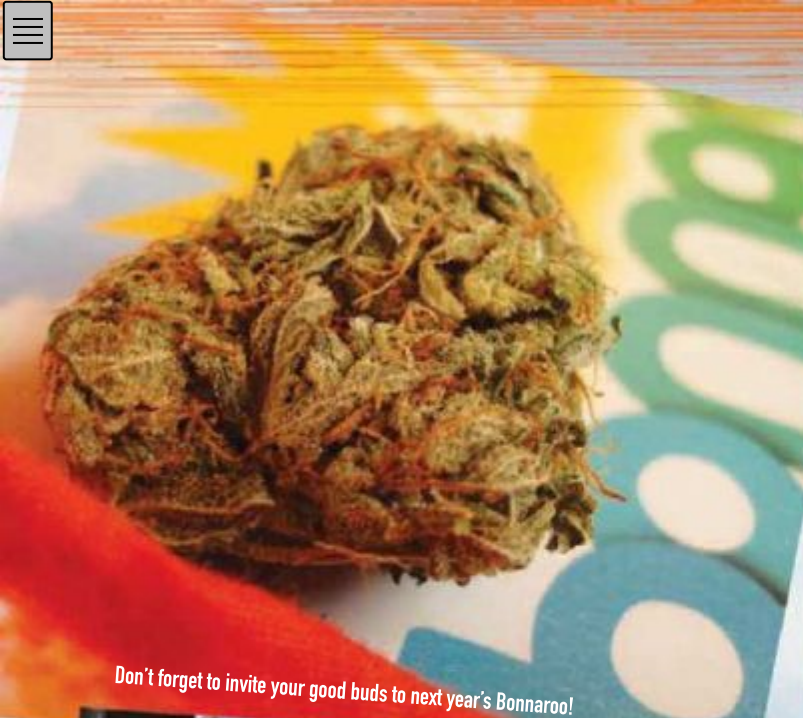


Hell Yeah. Yeah. Yeahs!



"Anyone seen a giant mushroom shaped fountain around? That's where I'm supposed to meet my friends..."

C. TAYLOR GROTHERS (2), JEFF KRAVITZ (2), NATASHA LEVIN (2), ELISE MCDONOUGH (3), ASHLEY BOUDREAU (1)



Don't forget to invite your good buds to next year's Bonnaroo!

Bonnaroo strives to reduce its environmental impact, including reducing waste, recycling, providing free water refills, and on site composting. At Planet Roo, you can even take gardening classes.



The blank walls of Bonnaroo don't stay blank for long. Graffiti sprouts up overnight like mushrooms.



The best part is, someone asked if I was supposed to be asparagus.

GIRL TALKED And I listened ... while dressed as a pot leaf and shooting toilet paper into the air.

After winning a costume contest sponsored by Girl Talk (who, despite the moniker, is actually just one dude), I was sent two free Bonnaroo tickets along with an invitation to wear my ganja garb at GT's late-night show and serve as one of his toilet-paper cannonneers. I brought along my own Duff Man and two hits of acid, which I dropped during the Phish performance that directly preceded Girl Talk's 2:15 timeslot on Friday night (morning).

My mind swam at the pre-game strategy session as we were instructed in the how-to's and do-not's of leaf-blower-cum-TP-gun use. Then, dressed as my favorite plant and tripping hard, I was led onstage, alongside 30 other backup dancers/professional partiers. If you've never attended a Girl Talk show, just imagine *Girls Gone Wild* meets a frat party on amphetamines—but in a good way ...

With the toilet paper blowing and Orange Sunshine melting the walls, Gregg (Mr. Girl Talk) hit "play" on his mashup-spewing laptop, and off we went. Rather quickly, the first 20 rows broke down the "fourth wall" between performers and audience—and not just symbolically! At least 300 people climbed over security, over the speakers and over Girl Talk himself, nearly collapsing the stage. With the LSD racing—but still mindful of my duty to protect and serve—I pushed the MDMA zombies off my toilet-paper gun (lest the ladies' hair get sucked into its vacuum), while glitter, confetti, balloons, inflatable furniture, roll-on luggage (no joke), Silly String, blow-up penises (peni?) and Duff Man himself surfed over both stage and crowd.

O Bonnaroo, how I miss thee!—Vaporella



Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

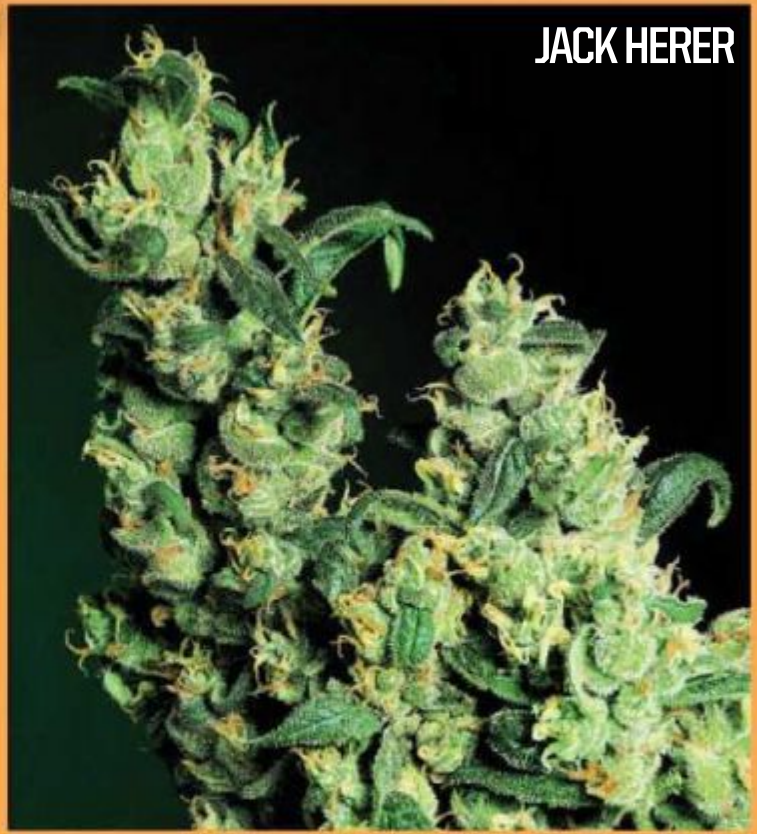
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$342** (last month: \$355; YTD: \$368)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$414** (\$434, \$442)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$269** (\$272, \$268)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$59** (\$93, \$88)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
CALIFORNIA	Placerville Truckee	Golden Kush	\$300
		Bubba Kush	\$240
		Hindu Skunk	\$230
		Purple Trainwreck	\$250
		Chem Dog	\$250
		Blue Dragon	\$260
COLORADO	Aspen	White Skunk	\$400
		Purple Diesel	\$480
		Flyin' Hawaiian	\$480
	Boulder	Blueberry	\$350
		Sensi Star	\$350
		Jack Herer	\$350
Denver	LA Kush	\$340	
CONNECTICUT	Hartford	C-99	\$265
		Granddaddy Purps	\$310
INDIANA	Fort Wayne	Romulan	\$450
KANSAS	Manhattan	Black Widow	\$400
KENTUCKY	Lexington	Sour Diesel	\$500
LOUISIANA	Baton Rouge	Mazar	\$350
MASSACHUSETTS	Berkley Northampton	Purple Microdot Acid	\$15/tab
		Grape Ape	\$400
	Lowell	Jack Herer	\$400
		Haze	\$410
MICHIGAN	Hastings	Trainwreck	\$400
MONTANA	Billings	Outdoor	\$325
		Afghoey	\$350
NEW YORK	Long Island New York	Trainwreck	\$475
		AK-47	\$500
		Sour Diesel	\$600
NORTH CAROLINA	Burgaw Fayetteville	Mexican	\$75
		Blueberry	\$380
PENNSYLVANIA	Coplay	OG Kush	\$375
		Sour Diesel	\$350
		Purple Urkel	\$325
		East Coast Sour Diesel	\$600
		Citrus Haze	\$500
RHODE ISLAND	Bristol County	Vortex	\$400
SOUTH CAROLINA	Greenville	Beasters	\$200
		Purple Kush	\$350
TENNESSEE	Memphis	Ice	\$400
TEXAS	San Antonio	Sensi Star	\$400
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Blueberry	\$320
		Schwag	\$50
WISCONSIN	Appleton Madison	Mango Kush	\$400
		Strawberry Cough	\$350
INTERNATIONAL (prices given in Australian or Canadian dollars)			
AUSTRALIA	Perth	Kind	AU\$350
CANADA	Abbotsford St. John's Winnipeg	Bubble Hash	C\$250
		M-39	C\$160
		Champagne	C\$220
		Juicy Fruit	C\$200



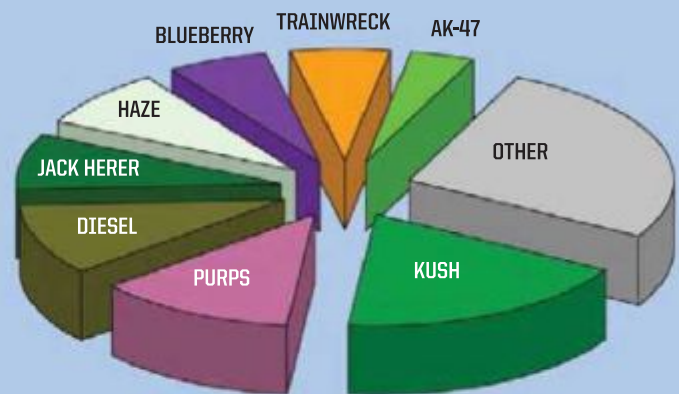
MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush retained its position in the top pot spot, narrowly beating out Purps and Diesel. However, while Diesel's average price was up in October, both Kush and Purps experienced a significant drop from their previous month's average (Diesel +56, Kush -46, Purps -69). The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$344), Purps (\$353), Diesel (\$506), Jack Herer (\$356) and Haze (\$415).

Index Watch: A buyer's market—all indices were down from the previous month, and all but Mids finished the month substantially below their year-to-date average.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

KIND SUBMISSIONS - OCTOBER 2009



BUBBA KUSH - \$240

Truckee, CALIFORNIA

"The grower providing these danks here in Truckee uses straight organics. The proof is in the pudding when you put a flame to these nuggets: They taste like no other. Primo for sure."

MAZAR - \$350

Baton Rouge, LOUISIANA

"Strong, cerebral high with uplifting undertones. Extremely fluffy buds that are extra-sticky. Great medicinal strain for joint pains."

JACK HERER - \$400

Northampton, MASSACHUSETTS

"Anyone who's toked him knows he means business, and anyone who's grown him knows the patience is well worth it. Juicy and drenched in trichomes, Jack makes for a head-hammering high that never seems to end."

PURPLE MICRODOT ACID

- \$15/tab

Berkley, MASSACHUSETTS

"Probably the best psychedelic experience of my life. These tabs were shipped over from California and bring out the strongest, longest-lasting trip. More bang for your buck."



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CATCHING UP WITH KID CUDI

Scott Ramon Seguro Mescudi, better known to his fans as Kid Cudi, emerged almost overnight with his single “Day ‘n’ Night,” about a “lonely stoner who only seems to free his mind at night.” Since his 2008 mixtape, *A Kid Named Cudi*, caught the attention of Kanye West, life has been a whirlwind for the young music maker. While putting the finishing touches on his debut album, *Man on the Moon: The End of Day* (Motown Universal), the Cudder met up with HIGH TIMES to smoke some Sour Diesel and talk about music, dreaming while stoned, and writing rhymes in the dark. Interview by Danny Danko.

Your stuff sounds like music made by stoners from the future.

Yeah, man, it’s some real next-level shit. I really want people to understand that we should push creativity to the limit with music. This is an art where you can pretty much do whatever you want, but people are limiting their creativity. This album is my challenge to everybody to be more creative.

Not be afraid to be weird or different?

Absolutely. You can still do your thing without it being just strange. Go out there! To me, being weird is just being misunderstood—and that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

Does marijuana encourage your creativity?

Yeah, with me, definitely—I’m more relaxed, and my brain kinda just like wanders and puts ideas together that I never would’ve done if I was sober, you know? It’s a confidence booster to imagine a little more.

Even when I go to sleep stoned, which happens often, my dreams are more detailed and vivid—and, I would also say, important. My dreams are how I come up with most of my songs and ideas on themes for how I want the album to roll. I write about what I see.

Dreams are definitely a recurring theme in your lyrics and throughout your music.

I can’t emphasize enough the role that dreaming while high plays in my music.

Do you remember the first time you got high?

We were in one of my friend’s parents’ garages. We smoked out of a Black and Mild, ‘cause we didn’t know what we were doing—we didn’t know how to split a cigar, so we just emptied it out and put the weed in. Immediately after I hit it, I felt like I was super-duper high. It lasted for hours. There was no turning back.

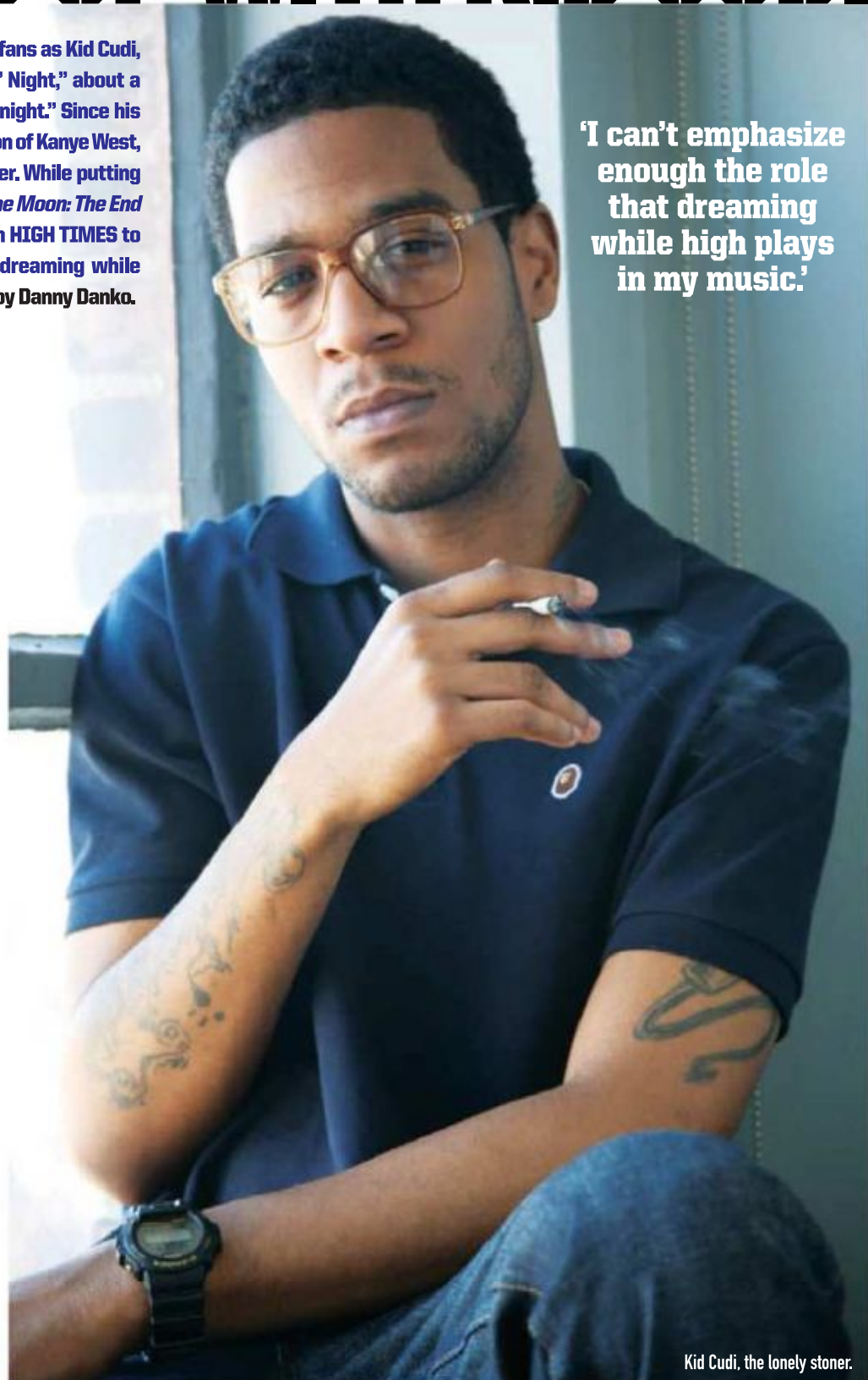
What’s your favorite to smoke now?

I love *indica*-dominant strains with more of a body high. The head high doesn’t really do it for me.

So no Haze?

Nah. Kush, Diesels—I need the whole situation.

What about edibles? Any experience with pot brownies or cookies?



Kid Cudi, the lonely stoner.

‘I can’t emphasize enough the role that dreaming while high plays in my music.’

Brownies, yeah—me and Pat had an encounter with weed brownies. [laughing] We were doing our college-tour thing, and the kids baked us some pot food as a gift. It was really dope!

You’ve got some interesting collabos on the new record. Snoop Dogg is on there?

Yeah, gotta have big Snoop! Hanging with the homie, blunts on deck, smoking, writing and making music. I did a joint for his album, and he did one for mine. I did joints with Ratatat, Kanye, Common ... so far, that’s it.

What was the inspiration behind “Day ‘n’ Night”?

Just what I was dealing with at that time in my life—a “when it rains, it pours” situation. And I didn’t know what to do other than write a song about it. The light bulb went out in my room, and I couldn’t even get a new light bulb, so I just let the daylight run the show. When it got dark, it got dark. But I didn’t mind. ✨

Kid Cudi’s debut album, Man on the Moon: The End of Day (Motown Universal), comes out August 25. Check him out at kidcudi.com.

Med Pot Warning: What Are You Really Smoking?

By Alex Allan Anderson

Are you aware of what you're really smoking? Can you recall a time when you took a hit of what you thought was going to be some great smoke only to find yourself choking and gagging? Even worse it was hard to keep lit, tasted terrible, irritated your throat and lungs and produced a heavy black ash.

Licensed medical cannabis patient and grower Gino Yordanov offers you an insider's look at the direct causes of poor-quality medicine. That's because Yordanov is co-founder of Advanced Nutrients, the only hydroponics company that's logged nearly a decade of cannabis growing research into plant quality, yields and potency.

"I always wondered what caused that stinging harshness in my throat when I medicated myself with buds I purchased," Yordanov recalls. "So I had my team of scientists find out the causes. And here's what they discovered..."

You're Smoking Too Much Phosphorus

One of the main causes of all that hacking and coughing is plants are grown with too much phosphorus. Another critical finding that made a significant difference was the particular forms of phosphorus and nutrient ratio's used to grow with.

Even more troubling, what are the rest of the fertilizer's essential ingredients "cut" with? Take calcium nitrate for instance it's made up of 15.5% nitrogen and 11% calcium, so what's the other 73.5% made out of?

Well, as it turns out, actually it matters a lot, especially the composition and purity level of that "cut."

"When calcium nitrate is not analyzed or sourced incorrectly, the remaining percentage of filler material slows crop growth and adds harshness to your buds. And calcium nitrate is just one example – what about all the other ingredients in a nutrient? Obviously it all matters.

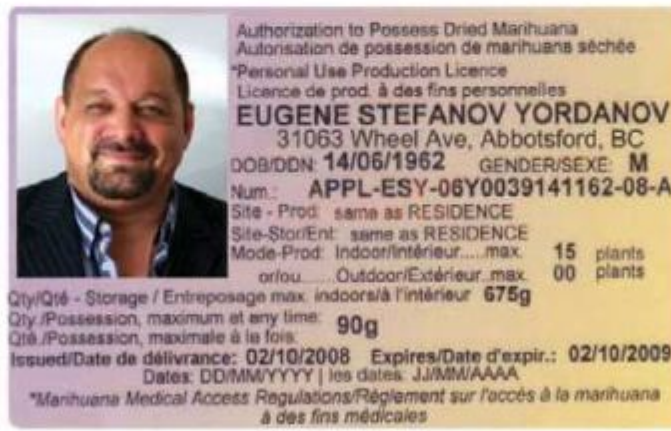
But here's the most important part... the correct ratios of a cannabis fertilizer's macro and micro nutrients make a huge difference in your medicine's smoothness. Plus it's a known fact that the further you move away from feeding cannabis plants their ideal nutrient ratios, potency and yield rapidly deteriorate.

You see, cannabis uses a small amount of phosphorus during flowering, what it really loves to use is nitrogen and potassium. We discovered this because our scientists have taken thousands of weekly tissue samples from buds, stems, leaves and roots of many varieties using gas chromatography analysis throughout all phases of cannabis growth.

Nutrient Companies Are Harming You

And to make matters worse, nutrient companies are over-

providing phosphorus in hydroponic bloom fertilizers. And to compound problems, they use high levels of ingredients like mono ammonium phosphate (MAP) or diammonium phosphate (DAP). These harshness culprits will make you cough a lung out. Really, it's that bad. Hey, I realize this may sound a bit self serving but obviously I care about what patients and I are smoking and of course the facts are the facts."



Licensed Medical Cannabis Grower and Patient Gino Yordnaov gives you an insider's look on how you'll absolutely ensure you're getting safer, smoother and more potent medicine.

The good news is Yordanov's researchers found combinations of specialized nutrients, plant and mineral extracts, root enhancers, vitamins, inoculants, growth and bloom co-factors that consistently produce bigger yields, higher amounts of THC, sweeter smelling aromatic compounds and tastier smoother smoking buds.

In fact, when Advanced Nutrients formulas were tested by Dr. Mahmoud A. ElSohly, (Director of the US government's marijuana research farm at the University of Mississippi), ElSohly discovered that Advanced Nutrients increased THC percentages by 40% while

increasing plant and bud biomass by 21% compared to the formulations he was using. *In the interest of full disclosure, Dr ElSohly is now an Advanced Nutrients customer.*

And Yordanov requires his company's scientists and quality control technicians to continually upgrade formulations to produce the absolute maximum bud weight and quality.

Your Only Clean Safe Source For Pure Grown Medicine

As the only hydroponics nutrients company founder who is also an officially-government licensed medical cannabis patient and grower, Yordanov pledges it's his solemn duty to guarantee Advanced Nutrients produces clean, convenient, yield-boosting formulas that ensure patients' health and safety.

"I want the finest medicine for myself and all patients. Whether you purchase from a medical cannabis dispensary or grow your own, clearly this is so important to your health that you should insist your buds were grown with hydroponics nutrients designed and tested specifically for medical cannabis."

Ask If Your Dispensary Medicine Was Grown With Advanced Nutrients...

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- Because you want your buds to have the highest potency genetically possible and grown with the correct fertilizer ratios of macro and micronutrients.
- Because you want the safest, smoothest smoke and the quality of your health demands it.



Bobby Hecksher and Ryan McBride look on while John Christian Rees passes the herb to Bob Mustachio.

Meet the Warlocks

The dark side of psychedelia. By John Payne

I'm just beginning to realize that getting high in order to fully savor this extremely psychedelic music might be sort of redundant.

Come right down to it, that hoary word *psychedelic* is getting to be a pretty tired one for the plethora of new bands mining the weird gold of the great mind-bender bands of the '60s and '70s—the Dead and Jefferson Airplane, say, or Chocolate Watchband, etc. For LA's veteran dark freaks, the Warlocks, who were among the first of the second-wave “psychedelic” bands to make the scene in the '90s, all such terminology is way beside the point.

“I didn't live through that era,” points out the Warlocks' main man, Bobby Hecksher. “We're in 2009, and the term *psychedelic* is very broad, a massive umbrella. 'Neo-psychedelia,' 'third wave'—so many bands have the same inspirational things.”

Hecksher started the Warlocks in the late '90s, after stints with underground LA bands like Charles Brown Superstar and the Magic Pacer, as well as collaborative stuff with Beck and Brian Jonestown Massacre. He decided that the Warlocks, with a lineup that grew to encompass 10 or more players over the years, would emphasize the garage-y side of the psychedelic experience, the decidedly threatening bad-trip side—and for that they drew their inspiration from the creepy old Velvet Underground, most obviously, while also soaking up the trance-inducing trips of Krautrock heroes Neu! and greasy space bikers Hawkwind. Albums like 2001's *Rise and Fall* (Bomp!) and 2003's 65-minute *Phoenix* EP (Birdman/Mute), along with the band's messily transcendent live shows, earned them loud critical huzzahs as the best and most authentically gnarly of the neo-psychedelic herd.

The Warlocks' new *The Mirror Explodes*, on the righteous Tee Pee label, comes after a sort of shitty period for the band, both businesswise and personally, thanks to the demands of their former label, Mute, which put increasing pressure—on the Warlocks, of all people—to cheese up their sound and boost their commercial appeal.

“The band had been through a lot, touring for three years straight,” Hecksher recalls. “It got more complex, and more money was involved, and things entered an orbit that was kind of crazy. After years of that,

everything gets rubbed down, you get screwed up.”

“Worse than asking us to write hits,” adds mustachio'd drummer Bob Mustachio, “the label wanted to change what we'd already written!”

But the band refused to roll over and play dead, taking its own sweet time to get its records made and performing live whenever the mood struck them, since their previous incessant touring had wreaked its havoc on the band's personal affairs—and also, basically, because they were tired of being told what to do. After cutting down to a small core unit to record the very accessible *Surgery* (Mute), Hecksher and crew jumped to Tee Pee and laid out 2007's ectoplasmic stoner epic, *Heavy Deavy Skull Lover*.

The Mirror Explodes is a superb return to formlessness, drenched in that losing-control menace that you know you crave, for whatever obscure reasons. Massive, layering guitars of every shard and scope—now performed live by Hecksher and returning original member John Christian Rees—give *Mirror* its trademarked Warlockian sound, equal parts innocence and wickedness.

I'm just beginning to realize that getting high in order to fully savor this extremely psychedelic music might be sort of redundant. For his part, guitarist J.C. Rees makes no bones about the expansive effect that pot has on his creativity. “I like smoking grass,” he says with relish. “I like good grass, I like shitty grass. You have to make time for marijuana.” Then he cackles.

Be that as it may, the oddly cheering *Mirror*'s grainily loose aggregation of all the frightening, paranoid, dismal, disastrous and generally fucked-up sounds that Hecksher has had rolling around in his otherwise cheerful head to these past 10 years is, he says, a sound custom-made for our bleak new world.

“Maybe it's a bad attitude to have, but it's really hard for musicians to make music and put records out now,” Hecksher observes. “I just wanted to make sure that I've done everything I wanted to do, to make sure that we finished a period. And now that we've finished a period, we're really excited about moving forward.” ✨

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Julian Marley Awakens Bob Marley's son takes it back to the roots. By John Fortunado

As the police sirens go off in the distance, we're burning spliffs on a sunny afternoon in Manhattan with reggae artist Julian Marley. The talented offspring of the legendary Bob Marley, Julian's releasing his third LP, *Awake*, which shows noticeable growth on every level—songwriting, arranging and production.

The London-born Marley, whose eclecticism leans closer to older brother Ziggy's reverent roots rock than younger sibling Damian's rude-boy toasting, got his break in 1996, at the tender age of 21, when his *Lion in the Morning* hit the streets. That formative debut was bettered by 2003's belated follow-up, *A Time and Place*, and has now been bested by 2009's masterful *Awake*.

Besides a steady diet of reggae, Marley enjoys listening to classical and even Bulgarian folk music, though his familial connection to reggae and Rastafarian culture generally trumps any of the subsidiary ska, samba or American pop-music elements mixed into his expansive musical template. As Marley himself explains: "We love every kind of music because it's all part of life. The only thing that's true is sound.



The eclectic herbsman.

Word is whatever color you want to paint it, but music is like a rainbow—its color is universal."

As expected, the motifs of redemption, social crisis and the sacred herb occur throughout *Awake*. The uplifting "Harder Days" procures a

'In Jamaica, 95 percent of the people smoke herb. You can't stop that.'

horn-licked soul groove and goes "heading for deliverance" despite the current economic meltdown. "Boom Draw" (Jamaican slang for taking big hits) compares favorably to his venerated father's dub-plated "African Herbsman" (with its skankin', organ-burbled syn-

copation).

"For me, roots are the main thing, even though we have many influences," Julian says. Then he adds: "The first instrument I touched was the drums, then piano—but I love guitar, especially when I'm smoking."

Yet Marley doesn't rely on marijuana alone for inspiration, since "it comes from everywhere—you could look out the window for inspiration," he says, smiling. "But herb opens up the senses. Sometimes we go to the countryside to meditate; even if we don't have any herb, you can still catch a meditation. You don't need herb to write a song, but it frees the mind. We still have the word of the Almighty. But herb in any form—food, drink, tea, cake—we love herb. In Jamaica, 95 percent of the people smoke herb. You can't stop that."

For Marley, these herbal delights are a means of attaining greater spirituality. After all, reggae music and Jamaica's favorite indigenous crop have both been fundamental to Rasta's cultural awareness.

"Rasta speaks of judgment and prophecies. Right now, it's even more related to today," Marley opines. "People are losing houses, jobs, and are involved with this depression and down vibes. We're saying, 'Awaken the mentality so we can live our life with positive vibes. Joy and love are elements that, even with great problems, have power and substance.' So *Awake* is right on target." ✨

The Wizard of Sync

The man behind the curtain for movies and music and match-ups, oh my! By Mary Ought Six

It's a stoner staple, an urban legend that pretty much everyone's either heard of or experienced: the alchemical cocktail of *The Wizard of Oz* cued to Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*. From the movie's opening credits—eerie and nostalgic, suspended on the soft laughter, chiming, moaning and familiar opening notes of "Speak to Me"—to the first burst of Technicolor and the flower-garbed midgets matched to the cha-ching, cha-ching, bu-buh-da-dum of "Money," it's a phenomenon ... and one best experienced stoned out of your gourd.

Wait! Hold the bong! If you're wracking your brain trying to remember where you put that old *Wizard* VHS, and if your scratched CD of *Dark Side* has been missing in action for a while now, The DeVille's got you covered. A detail man saved from a job at the IRS by his curious found-art passion, The DeVille, the master of syncmovies (syncmovies.com), has been served with papers more than once to make him cease and desist from

his trippy reproductions. But The Deville remains undeterred: He's done around 20 pairings so far and has more waiting in the wings, including *The Shining* set to *Hotel California* (think "Heeeeere's Johnny!" intertwined with "Johnny come lately ...").

It's not just the cool melody/action matches or the unexpected symmetries of lyric and story that get The DeVille and other fans fired up; it's also things like the link between *Dark Side's* cover art, featuring that well-known prism-refracted rainbow, and *The Wizard's* most famous song, "Over the Rainbow." This particular coincidence is what The DeVille calls the "rainbow connection," and every pairing in his syncs must meet its gold standard of uncanny synchronicity.

In his coupling of the sci-fi classic *Logan's Run* to Powerman 5000's *Tonight the Stars Revolt!*, for example, The DeVille notes that on the back of the album, there's a robot, and on the back cover of *Logan's Run*, there's also a robot, and "it's like the same guy designed the robots!" He adds:



Lions and tigers and Floyd, oh my!

"There's also numbers appended to their names in *Logan's Run* and to the members of the band, like Adam 12 and Dorian 27."

Obsessed with bringing these things "beyond coincidence" to the forefront in his labors of love, The DeVille syncs his syncs with an almost frightening exacti-

tude: "48th of a 1,000th of a second, to be precise," he notes. An avid pot smoker himself (duh), The DeVille points out that "you don't have to be stoned to see these things, but it's cool if you are, because you'll notice more stuff." Then he adds mystically: "Everything's created from the same ether."

And so it is. But take our word for it: Skip the ether, because these concoctions are truly best enjoyed stoned. ✨

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A Town Without Pity

CAPTURED

Directed by Ben Solomon and Dan Levin
(Blowback)



The Lower East Side—or the East Village, or Alphabet City, or whatever you want to call that part of town south of 14th Street and east of the Bowery in New York City—is just about gone. I'm not saying that it's *different* than it used to be, in the sense that all neighborhoods change over time ... I'm talking *gone*, like a lot of the buildings have been demolished and a whole section of its population has disappeared, in the same sort of suspicious way that the Lenape Indians vanished from Manhattan Island after a sharp-dealing Dutchman threw them 60 guilders in 1626 and bid them *vaarwel*.

It's a shame, too, since it used to be a pretty damn important place if you were talking about music or the arts or whatever. There ain't much to do about that now, but if you want to see what the LES used to look, feel and sound like, check out the new documentary *Captured*, directed by Ben Solomon and Dan Levin. It tells the story of Clayton Patterson, a Canadian artist who moved to the Lower East Side in 1979, preferring its gritty arts scene to the more self-conscious one happening a few blocks west in Soho. Patterson was a



Little Brother is watching Big Brother.

ubiquitous presence in the '80s, wearing a garish baseball cap and carrying a video camera to hardcore shows, drag parties, street protests and anything else that was happening. *Captured* finds him hanging with the Satan's Sinners motorcycle club, spending time with street artist Jim Power (a.k.a. the Mosaic Man), documenting GG Allin rolling around naked and the Bad Brains tearing a stage to shreds.

Captured culminates with the event that would prove to be the freaky LES's Waterloo, the Tompkins Square Park riot in the summer of 1988. The little park between Avenues A and B used to be an apocalyptic autonomous zone that was host to a vast tent city populated by addicts, anarchists, the homeless and stone-crazy psychos. Since people were looking to flip the real estate in the area, it didn't take a genius to figure out that in order to get the gentrification (wrecking) ball rolling, you had to deal with Tompkins Square Park first.

Back then, the NYPD wasn't really used to "cracking down" on anything. They summoned their inner thug and basically beat the shit out of a whole lot of people for two days. Clayton Patterson caught the ensuing melee on video and was jailed for his efforts. Eventually, those videos caused the city to settle for millions of dollars in lawsuits and even landed Mr. Patterson a guest spot on *Oprah*.

Ultimately, whatever the city and its landlords paid to get rid of the homeless, the drug dealers and the rent-controlled apartment dwellers of the Lower East Side was a bargain, as that neighborhood soon became the destination of choice for monied professional types looking to put down roots. *Captured* is a rare and poetic elegy to a vanquished community.—Chris Simunek

BUSDRIVER

Jhelli Beam
(Anti-)



"Be real, conscious rap failed us." So intones Busdriver like a warning of the damage he's about to heap, both upon hip-hop itself and all those adventurous souls who choose to come along for the ride. The man is a crazy croc on the sorry-ass but sort of interesting life of a rapper/artist in the glittering sprawl of his native Los Angeles—and presumably on all the respect and booty he deserves, but which have failed to materialize thus far 'cause he's so far out there on his very own lyrical/mental limb.

No one could possibly keep up with Busdriver's mouth in these hyper-speed brain-Frenchers stealing shade under the hinky hoodie of hip-hop. *Jhelli Beam* finds our glosso-laliac non-gangster faster, funnier and more irritating (in a good way) than ever, in a range of workouts featuring guest vocalists like Myka 9, John Dieterich of Deerhoof and Nick Thorburn of Islands, along with intriguingly insane mix warpers like Daedelus and Nobody—all conspiring in Busdriver's peculiarly beautiful stew of indie-rock thrash, black-metal crunch, Euro-classical keyboard swirls and vintage electronic bleeps, bleeps and burps. In tracks like "Do the Wop," "Unsafe Sextet/Gilded Hearts of Booklovers," "Scoliosis Jones" and "Fishy Face," you'll want to ignore Busdriver's hectoring hail of words and immerse yourself instead in the mad maelstrom of new sound combinations. And while the toasting "Least Favorite Rapper" predictably disses all crass bling and ye drained olde hip-hop ethics, it shines when Busdriver bawls, "Shout-out to Forest Whitaker!" Amen to that, or something...—John Payne



DRAKE

So Far Gone
(October's Very Own)



Sometimes referred to as "the new Fresh Prince," Toronto native Aubrey "Drake" Graham (who starred in the popular TV show *Degrassi: The Next Generation*) has approached the music business with the same wit as his acting career. Only on his latest mixtape, *So Far Gone*, the half-black, half-Jewish singer-slash-rapper wastes no time breaking away from the wheelchair-confined character he once played. With some help from Trey Songz and Lil Wayne on the inspirational "Successful," Drake boldly issues his challenge: "The game needs change and I'm the muthafucking cashier/Nickels for my thoughts/Dimes in my bed/Quarters of the Kush paint the lines in my head."

However, Drake's hippie-meets-hip-hop style is on display in "Let's Call It Off," featuring the Swedish rock band Peter, Bjorn & John. Next, he harmonizes for Houston on "November 18," produced by the legendary DJ Screw on a sample from the Notorious B.I.G.'s "Warning." The ballad "A Night Off" pairs Drake's vocals with those of R&B notable Lloyd. One of the most blunt works here is a Kanye West-produced track entitled "Say What's Real," prompting the 22-year-old to confess: "I quit school and it's not because I'm lazy/I'm just not the social type and campus life is crazy."

To further diversify, Drake collaborates with Santogold on "Unstoppable," and later with Swedish indie rocker Lykke Li and Southern rapper Bun B. If he continues on his current trajectory, perhaps his two Young Artist Awards, Shaw Rocket Award and Teen Choice Award are just a taste of things to come.—TRU



DAVID HOLMGREN

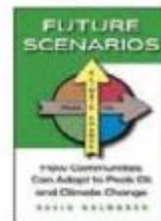
Future Scenarios
(Chelsea Green)



Permaculture originator and author David Holmgren sees our economic depression as a signal that bigger changes are in store for human civilization. Converging crises, namely climate change and peak oil, will require the citizens of developed nations to radically alter our lifestyles in order to adapt to declining energy availability, unstable weather and the increasing expense of food.

Extensive research into resource depletion, coupled with ideas from Holmgren's website, futurescenarios.org, are used to model four distinct paths for civilization. Each scenario is entirely plausible. The first, "Brown Tech," foresees "top-down constriction," as increasingly fascist governments ration out necessities. "Green Tech" is a happier path, in which the potential of renewable technologies is realized and a "distributed powerdown" takes place as people embrace new values, finding community and meaning in simpler lives. The third scenario, "Earth Steward," envisions liquid fuel becoming prohibitively expensive, causing people to travel far less and "relocalization" to occur. Suburbs evolve through a practical "bottom-up rebuild," transforming the outer rings of cities into areas of small-scale food and livestock production. The fourth and final vision is named "Lifeboats," and this worst-case scenario necessitates "civilization triage," in which small outposts attempt to preserve cultural knowledge as wars, famine and pandemics kill off half the global population in a few decades.

Holmgren is no "doomer," and his realistic assessments of what the future might hold offer a valuable perspective on what we need to do to survive and even thrive in the coming years.—Elise McDonough





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BY BOBBY BLACK

SMOKIN' WITH DR. G

Dr. David Grinspoon visits Amsterdam to sample a special new sativa.

I sat in Barney's Uptown perusing the new menu and enjoying a Jupiler ale while I waited for the restaurant's owners, Derry and his wife Sissi, to arrive. We'd made plans to meet here for dinner and discuss how my coffeeshop feature was going (see page 44). When they showed up, I was pleasantly surprised to see that they'd brought along a guest—Dr. David Grinspoon, who was in town to sample a new strain named after his dad, Dr. Lester Grinspoon.



Dr. David Grinspoon (l) and father Lester (r).

If you're not familiar with the name, you should be. Over the past 30 years, this associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School has been one of the most respected, outspoken and brilliant advocates for marijuana legalization. His activist career began with his 1971 book, *Marijuana Reconsidered*—the landmark legalization bible that made the case for the legitimate value of cannabis. In the service of science and truth, Dr. Grinspoon has testified in dozens of trials as an expert witness, as well as before Congress and in many other countries. In 1993, he published *Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine*, which helped bolster the increasingly credible claims of medical-marijuana activists, and the following year he helped save NORML by reconstituting the organization's board of directors and serving as its chairman. Two years ago, he submitted a 53-page affidavit on behalf of the legal defense of HT's own Rick Cusick and NORML founder Keith Stroup after their arrest for smoking a joint at the Boston Freedom Rally, when the two sought to challenge the constitutionality of federal marijuana law and uphold the principle of jury nullification. There's even a popular Australian band (Grinspoon) named after him. Now, Lester Grinspoon's great passion and achievements are being honored—much like Jack Herer many years ago—by naming a strain of cannabis after him as well.

Unfortunately, due to his age, Dr. Grinspoon (the person) isn't able to travel to Amsterdam to sample Dr. Grinspoon (the weed). But since his son David (an acclaimed author and curator of astrobiology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science) was just across the channel in London for a conference, he decided to pay a visit and taste the namesake strain in his father's stead.

When I'd first arrived in Amsterdam about a week before, Derry had given me a few grams to try out. It was a wispy little bud, a pure sativa, though not as dense or pretty to look at as some of the other plants. In fact, there weren't even many solid buds—it was more like a bag full of large crumbs. It isn't frequently cultivated, Derry explained, because it has a longer maturation period and produces a smaller yield than most other strains—which, in effect, only makes it that much rarer a delicacy. With my very first toke, I felt a wave of tingles up my nasal cavity, causing me to sneeze not once but thrice in a row. I'd smoked a vast array of other strains throughout the week, including heavyweights like Top Dawg, G-13 Haze and White Widow ... but none matched the incomparably uplifting high of the good doctor. And now, I had the unique honor of sharing with Dr. Grinspoon his first joint of Dr. Grinspoon.

Over dinner, we discussed everything from the origins of life and global warming to Burning Man and shamanism ... from the miserable failings of the Bush administration to the rational promise of the Obama administration. David Grinspoon recounted childhood memories of hanging out with "Uncle Carl" (Sagan) and "Uncle Andy" (Weil). He explained how the climate models he'd helped develop to chart the surface weather of Venus were now being adapted to better estimate climate change here on Earth. And he expressed his passion for the search for extraterrestrial life—much as he does in his book *Lonely Planets: The Natural Philosophy of Alien Life*. The higher we got, the more intellectually intriguing our exchanges seemed to grow. Our conversation carried on long after the meal was over—almost until closing time, in fact. Before retiring for the evening, I invited Dr. G to join us at the Cannabis Cup this year. With Derry planning to enter Dr. Grinspoon for Best Sativa, I think he may seriously be considering it. I hope he comes—the marijuana movement needs more intellectuals on its side like Lester and David Grinspoon, and I need to learn more about Venus. Dinner's on me, Doc. ✨

Visit Lester's website at marijuana-uses.com and David's at funkyscience.net.



HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH: THE ABSYNTH QUINTET

Humboldt County, CA, is well known as a Mecca for pot cultivation and culture. Now, an entirely new type of "grass" is emerging from behind the Redwood Curtain: high-energy gypsy jamgrass. The Absynth Quintet is a rapidly rising jamgrass band that calls Humboldt home, and the group secured its spot as October's Unsigned Band of the Month with a decisive online victory.

A tasty fusion of genres, the Absynth Quintet's music melds the familiar and the avant-garde in a unique and provocative palette of tone and texture. This is foot-stomping bluegrass, exotic gypsy swing and virtuosic jazzy folk intertwined with playful forays into the depths of funky experimentation. The blend is unique and, at the same time, strangely familiar.

2008 saw the Absynth Quintet break onto the national scene with the release of *Indigo Shoes*, their stellar full-length studio album. *Indigo Shoes* was recorded in Humboldt County at the band's studio, the Sonic Dimple, over the course of three wet winter months.

While *Indigo Shoes* showcases the Absynth Quintet's chops in a studio environment, their 2007 live release, *Kevlar Mariachi Pants*, offers a glimpse into the improvisational skills that the group has cultivated over four years of touring. *Kevlar* consists primarily of originals, but also includes a fiery treatment of John Coltrane's "Mr. P.C."

If you get high on jamgrass, you're going to want to try Humboldt's newest strain. For more on the Absynth Quintet, including album info, audio samples and tour dates, head to hightimes.com/theabsynthquintet. ✨



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Phil Spector, Valerie Solanas and Me

A word to the wise: Do not ratchet up the sour vibe! By Paul Krassner

When Phil Spector was sentenced—19 to life in prison—for the murder of actress Lana Clarkson, I had a flashback to 1971, at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse. I was a guest of John Lennon and Yoko Ono for the celebration of Yoko's show, *This Is Not Here*. The Videofreex, a countercultural video commune, was there to shoot a documentary titled *You're Not Here, Yoko*.

Nancy Cain recalls: "We were all going up for the opening, which would be jammed because John Lennon and Ringo Starr were going to be there, too. And it was true—in the crush of people, there went Ringo; he was being swept past us into the main gallery. There he goes. 'Hi, Ringo!' He was gone, but we could play our video as much as we wanted to. There he goes. 'Hi, Ringo!' There he goes again. 'Hi, Ringo.'"

It was, in fact, Ringo's birthday, and I found myself sitting on the floor in a large room where a group of friends and associates sang "Happy Birthday" to him and then "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," with each individual singing a chorus. The Women's Liberation Movement was flourishing at the time, and I sang, "She's got the whole world in Her hands"

Later, I was about to enter another large room with John and Yoko. It was quite crowded. As I walked through the door, Phil Spector stood up at the far side of the room, pointed at me and shouted, "You killed Lenny Bruce!" I was stunned. Lenny and I had been close friends, and I was the editor of his autobiography, *How to Talk Dirty and Influence People*.

Rather than ratchet up the sour vibe that Spector had just created, I immediately turned around and left the room. John and Yoko ran after me, apologizing profusely for Spector's insane outburst. A couple of years later, at the A&M recording studio, he pointed a gun at Lennon, chasing him through the corridors.

That incident at the museum wasn't the only occasion I've been falsely accused. I was also



Valerie Solanas, 1936-1988.

accused of being an accessory to the attempted assassination of Andy Warhol by Valerie Solanas, author of *The SCUM Manifesto* ("SCUM" = the Society for Cutting Up Men). Warhol cohort Paul Morrissey said in a 1996 interview with actor Taylor Meade: "In the spring of 1968, Solanas approached underground newspaper publisher Paul Krassner for money, saying, 'I want to shoot [Olympia Press honcho] Maurice Girodias.' He gave her \$50, enough for a .32 automatic pistol."

Actually, she asked me to lend her \$50 for food, which I did, sympathizing with the anguish of a poor pamphleteer. That was on Friday. On Monday, I took my 4-year-old daughter Holly out for lunch. On the way, we bumped into Valerie, just a block from Warhol's loft. We talked a little, then

Holly and I went to Brownie's, a vegetarian restaurant. Minutes later, we were seated at a table and Valerie walked in. "Do you mind if I join you?" she asked.

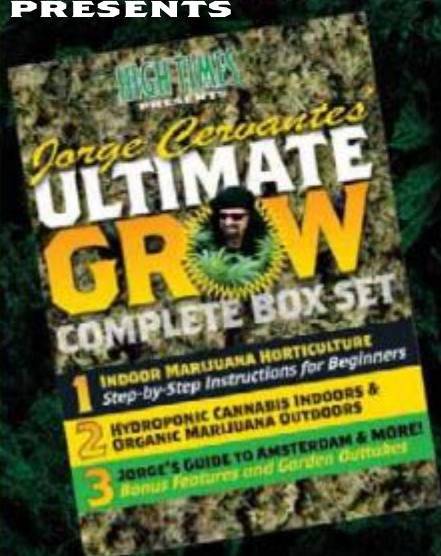
"Well, yeah, I *do* mind, actually, but only because I don't get a chance to see my daughter that often."

"Okay, I understand," she said, and left.

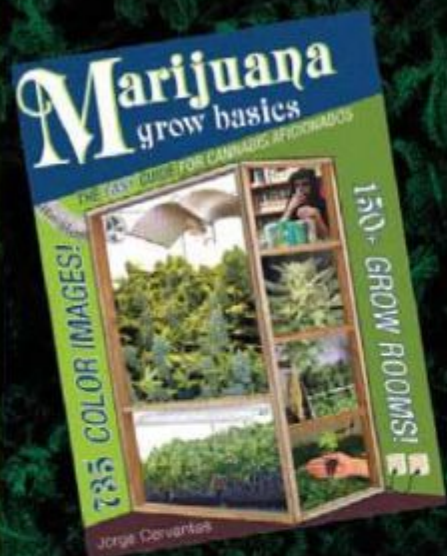
Five hours later, she shot Warhol, seeking revenge out of the paranoid belief that he had ruined her literary career. Valerie could've bought the gun with that \$50, but if I had known that her intention was to kill Warhol, I might have been able to talk her out of it. Then again, she could've shot *me*—and *Holly*—right there in the restaurant. "Whattaya *mean*, I can't join you for lunch?" *Bang! Bang!* That easy. That horrible. That absurd. ✨

Paul Krassner has the nerve to call Valerie Solanas paranoid? He's so paranoid himself that he's afraid Phil Spector will escape by walking right through the Wall of Sound. Visit Paranoid Paul at paulkrassner.com.

HIGH TIMES
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THE CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW

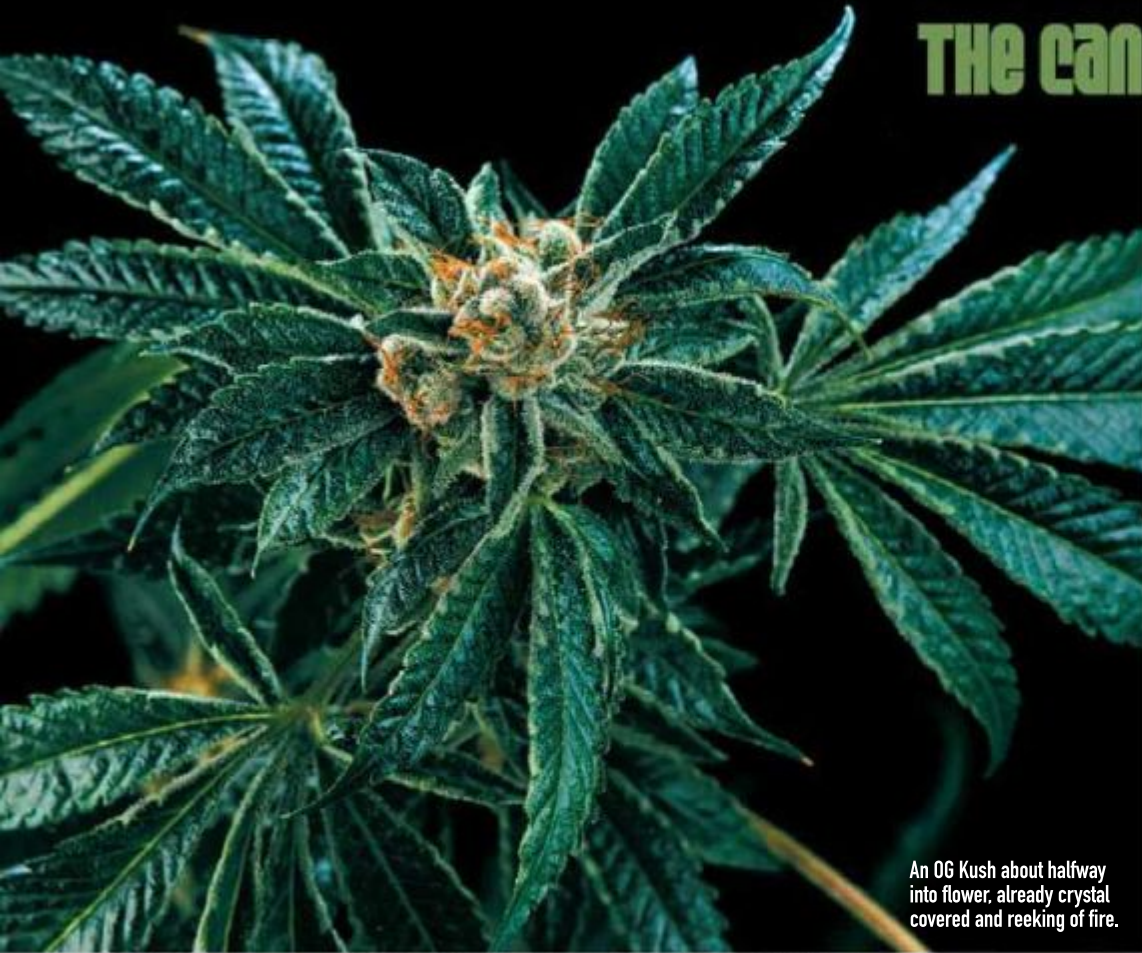
YOUR GUIDE TO GETTING HERE & GETTING BUZZED. BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Every year for the past two decades, the Who's Who of Pot has gathered at the world's Mecca of weed to compete for the crown as King of the Cannabis Kingdom. It is here, in this wonderfully sensuous city of Amsterdam, that the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup sets the benchmark each year for the best marijuana on Earth. And where else would we do it? After all, Amsterdam has been the world's most progressive trendsetter for the legalization of the sacred herb.

Still, there have been rumblings and grumblings that perhaps that tide is shifting. California is now one of the world's preeminent hotbeds not for just legalization routes, but also for growing and breeding. Could this decrim trend signal a possibility for a move for the Cannabis Cup, back home to its roots in the United States? (The founding of the Cup in Amsterdam was inspired by the harvest festivals held in California in the '70s.) Regardless of what the future holds, this year's 22nd Annual Cannabis Cup will be held in the same place it has been for over two decades, and we couldn't be more pleased.

In case you've never been to Amsterdam, you're in for a treat: Aside from the glorious, ganja-laden coffeeshops and mind-blowing party scene, the city is among the most beautiful in the world. Here we present a mini-series to serve as a guide for you to explore Amsterdam and preview what's in store at this year's Cup.

THE CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW



An OG Kush about halfway into flower, already crystal covered and reeking of fire.

best herbs in Amsterdam was an OG Kush going for €12 a gram.

That OG was grown by Don and Aaron, owners of DNA Genetics, a major seed company in Amsterdam. The Chocolope genetics that won Mo third place in the 2008 Cannabis Cup also came from DNA (though it was grown by a different set of growers), and a definite synergy is starting to develop between the coffeeshop and the seed company. In fact, Mo suggested that his 2009 entries would most likely come from stock created by DNA.

In a sneak peak at some possible 2009 Cup contenders, the Green Place is eyeing Cataract, Headband and maybe even a special OG phenotype as potential entries. The Cataract's genetics are of the old-school Kush variety from the LA area. It brings with it the super-raw aroma associated with true *indica* genes that come from multiple backcrosses with its Afghan father.

"It all starts and ends with good weed," says Mo. "You can have the best-looking coffeeshop in town, but if your weed is shit, no one will ever come back." The man has a point. The question now is how the Green Place will come back from last year's thrilling finish? Something tells us that you may see Mo with a Cup in his hands in the not-so-distant future.



The Green Place, a haven for local flavor and bud connoisseurs.

Mo and the Green Place are looking to step it up again in 2009.

Featured Coffeeshop: The Green Place

Perhaps one of the sweetest aspects of Amsterdam are the canal-lined streets ... streets that are, of course, dotted with coffeeshop after coffeeshop. It's one thing to walk into a coffeeshop and buy a cappuccino and a gram or two of super-dank herb, but it's another thing entirely to be able to sit outside along the water, sipping your coffee and rolling a phatty.

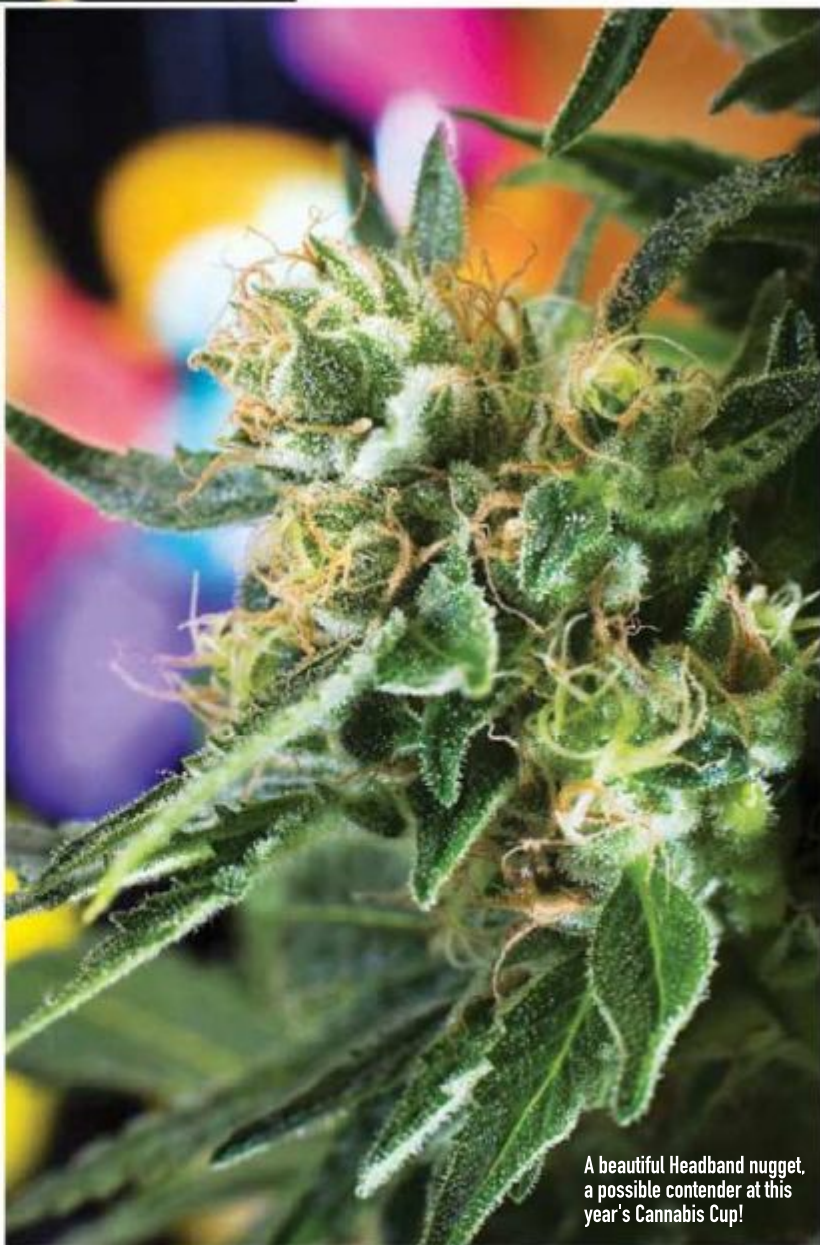
And coincidentally enough, that brings us to our featured coffeeshop for the 2009 Cannabis Cup: the Green Place Coffeeshop.

A perfect example of everything a Dutch coffeeshop should be, the Green Place sits at the end of a canal, adjacent to Amsterdam's bustling Nieuwmarkt (New Market) Square. Nestled in this ideal location on the fringe of the eye-popping Red Light District, the Green Place is a popular hangout for locals and visitors alike.

Although their popularity is a testament to the ambiance, service, modern amenities and great music at the establishment, Mo, the shop's owner, claims the crowds come for more than just comfort. Mo believes that his pot menu is a large part of his success. And he's right.

Even though Mo opened the Green Place only five years ago, he got a "taste of the cake" last year when he entered the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup for the first time and took home third place for Best Coffeeshop Marijuana. His 2008 entry was an immaculately grown Chocolope.

"I really pride myself on the variety of my menu," says Mo. "But more important is the quality of every strain we sell. It has to be the best batch of that strain or we won't carry it." A welcome bonus to the excellent herb sold at the Green Place is the fact that customers don't get gouged by "touristy" prices: Grams of primo bud range from €8 to €14. This summer, one of the



A beautiful Headband nugget, a possible contender at this year's Cannabis Cup!

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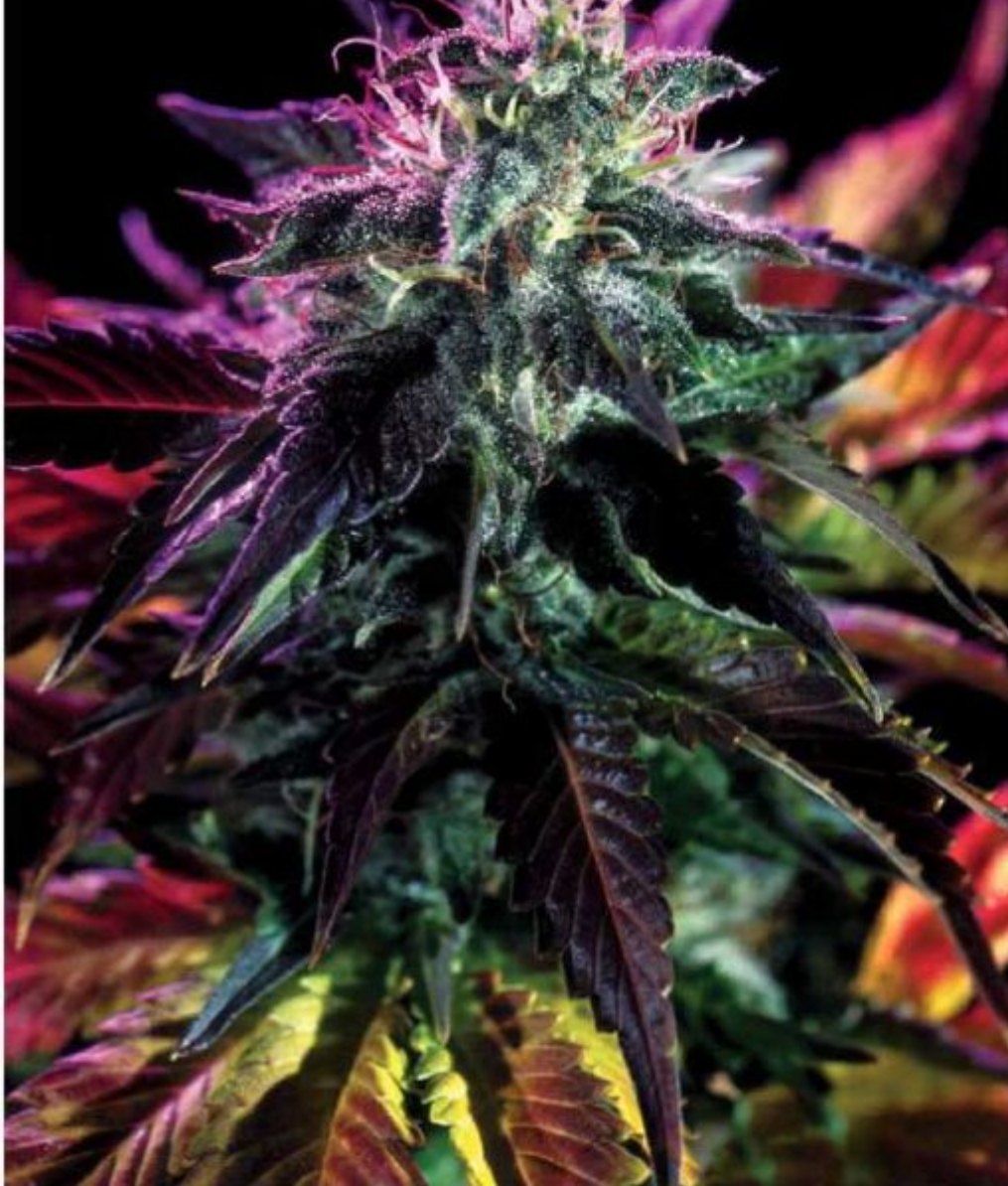


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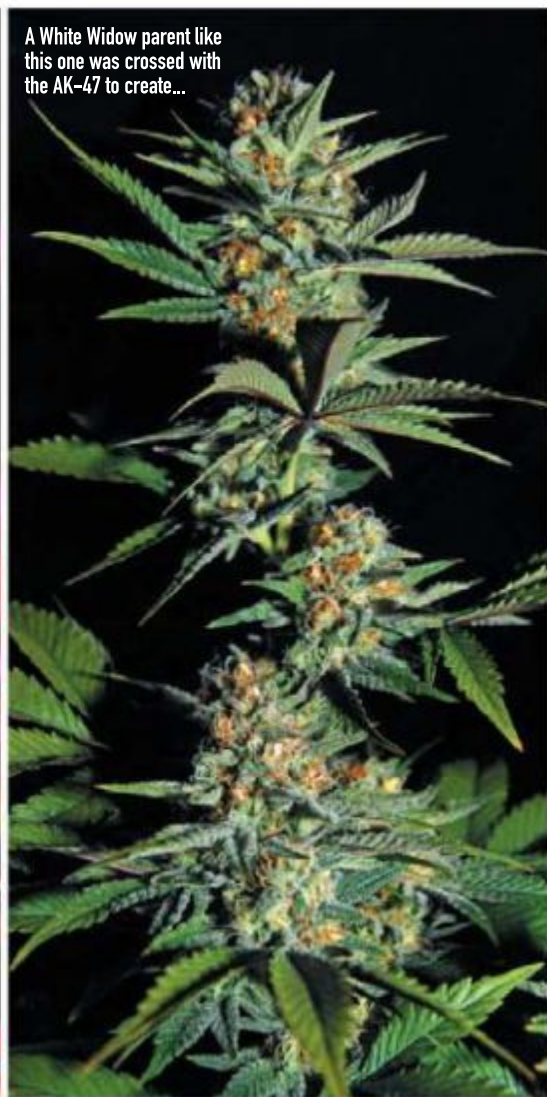


THE CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW

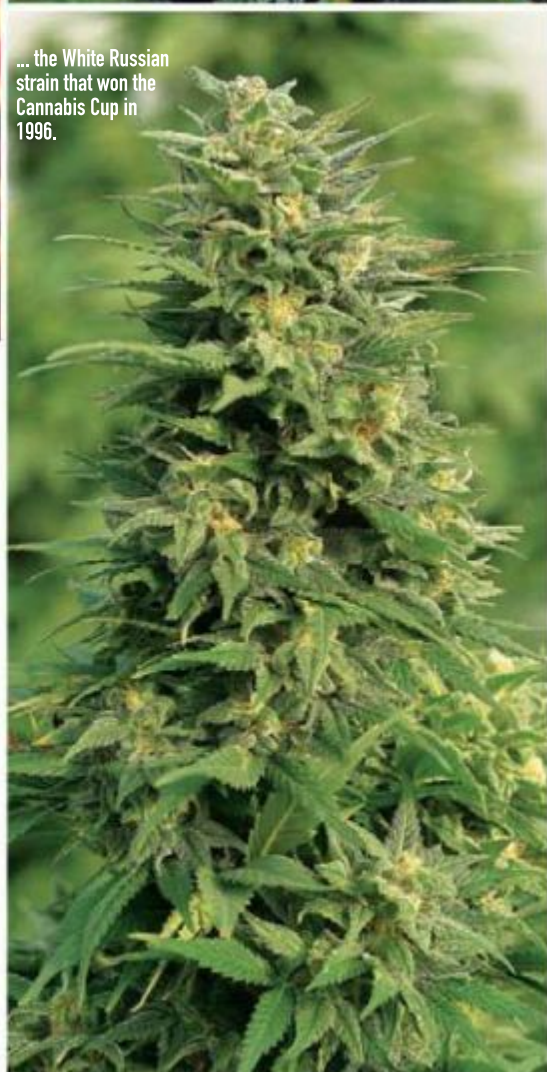
AK-47, one of Serious Seeds' most acclaimed strains, has been the backbone of a small but winning lineup. Look for a surprise comeback at this year's Cup!



A White Widow parent like this one was crossed with the AK-47 to create...



... the White Russian strain that won the Cannabis Cup in 1996.



A Serious Comeback?

A Conversation with Simon of Serious Seeds

Talk about comebacks: The 2009 Cannabis Cup may see the comeback of the century if Serious Seeds decides to throw its hat in the ring once again. In a rare interview, Simon, a Dutch biologist and the founder of Serious Seeds, sat down with HIGH TIMES to talk about weed, life and a possible return to the Cannabis Cup.

Serious Seeds hasn't entered the field of competition in five years, but that doesn't mean it won't in the future. Indeed, Simon conveys passion for his work—so much so that it sometimes keeps him from entering the Cup, because he refuses to degrade his reputation by entering something that isn't up to his own high standards.

An extremely bright and pleasant man, Simon prides himself on his classic and stable strains. His philosophy is to sell only the best genetics and, as such, his current roster of strains stands at five. Rather than constantly working to develop new strains, Simon intends to ensure stability and make improvements to his current strains

over time. When the improvements are successful, he doesn't rename a strain, but rather denotes the date of improvement in his seed catalog and keeps the original name of that genotype.

Of course, this doesn't mean that Simon doesn't aspire to find new genetics. In fact, some of his ideas involve creating cannabis plants for the everyday hobbyist—much like regular houseplants. Finding auto-flowering genotypes in other cannabis species such as *ruderalis* may provide the link he's looking for in developing a whole new concept in marijuana cultivation.

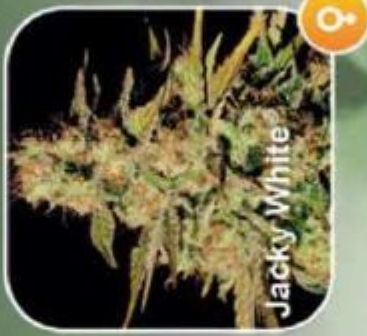
Perhaps one of his best-known strains, the AK-47, won Serious a Cannabis Cup in 2003, Simon's last victory. That year, Serious Seeds took home second place for Best *Indica* in the breeders' category—a huge honor and victory, for sure, but only one of many for Serious Seeds. Besides the AK-47, one of Serious Seeds' most successful strains is the fabled White Russian. One of the first strains to break the 20% threshold for THC count, the White Russian is a beautiful mix of AK-47 and White Widow parents.

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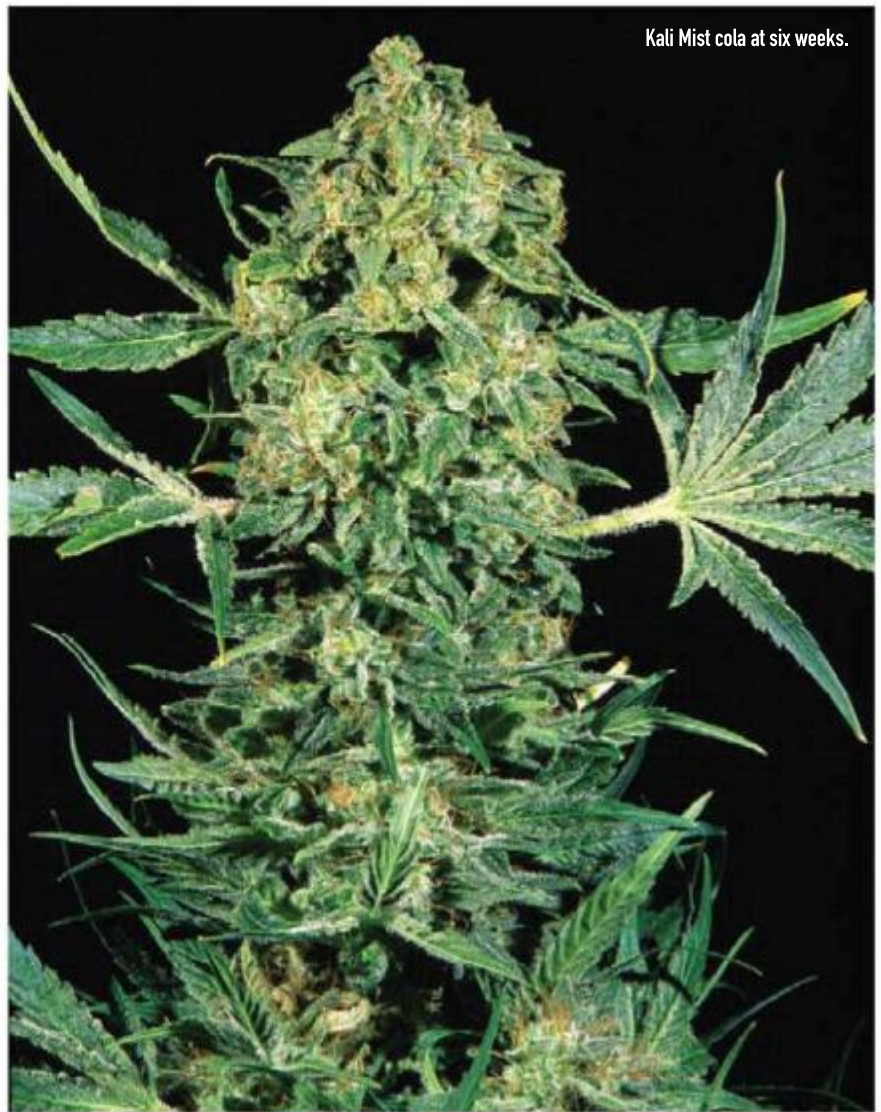
Dried and ready to blaze, this Kali Mist bud is another favorite out of Serious Seeds, winning multiple Cups in the late '90s.

Outside the AK family, Serious Seeds also carries the Bubblegum, Chronic and Kali Mist lines. Each strain has its own distinct characteristics that make it tops in its particular category. The Bubblegum, for instance, is one of the best-tasting herbs out there, while the Chronic is known as a huge yielder. And the Kali Mist—well, if you like sativas, you know all about its super high.

With all these classic strains at his disposal, coupled with his excellent knowledge of horticulture, we can only hope that Simon makes a serious comeback to this year's Cannabis Cup. Here's keeping our fingers—and strains—crossed! ✨



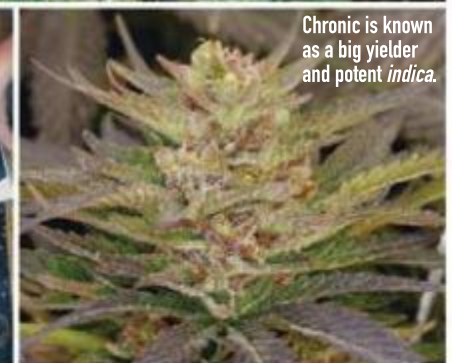
A sweet smell, euphoric high and a Bubblegum taste make this strain a favorite for hybrid projects around the world.



Kali Mist cola at six weeks.



A wonderful sampling table for judges at the 2008 Cannabis Cup.



Chronic is known as a big yielder and potent indica.

What to Expect at the Cannabis Cup

A lot of people ask what exactly they get with their Cannabis Cup Judge's Pass. The answer is simple: The best experience of your life, dude! Nah, but seriously, here's the deal: With the judge's pass, you're allowed access to the venue (expo center) every day, where there are tons of booths, vendors and shows going on. It also gets you into the parties at night—each one held at a separate venue in the city and sponsored by a different Cup participant. These parties feature headline music acts, plus a little bit of smoking and drinking on top.

So what about the weed? Well, that's easy, too: The weed is everywhere, but you have to explore the city a bit to find it. Here's how it works—you know what a pub-crawl is, right? Well, this is a *bud-crawl!* Judges are asked to try and visit as many participating coffeeshops as humanly possible. (There are a *lot*, and if you make them all, you are the man!) At each shop, you ask to buy a gram or joint of their entry, and then you do your judging thing. Many people take notes and rate each coffeeshop's entry based on a variety of factors. Most judging occurs on the following levels: look, smell, taste and high. At the end of the week, voting booths are set up at the expo center for judges to cast their ballots. Be sure to vote early, if possible, since the lines begin to build up toward the last hours!

This year's expo is at the Power Zone, a multi-tiered venue with bars, stages and outdoor decks. It's a gorgeous setting for the event, and every year it gets packed with more and more booths. Seed companies, coffeeshops, grow-gear companies and paraphernalia manufacturers line the sides of the expo, displaying their products and usually allowing judges to try their wares free of charge. It is a most exceptional experience. Tickets for this year's Cannabis Cup can be purchased in advance for discount rates. Visit www.cannabiscup.com for more info.

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COFFEESHOP CONFIDENTIAL

STORY & PHOTOS BY
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If you've ever been to the Cannabis Cup, odds are you've fantasized about someday moving to Amsterdam and working at a coffeeshop. To legally sell and smoke the world's best weed every day seems almost too cool to be considered work. But behind every romanticized vision lies a somewhat sobering reality. This spring, I was granted unprecedented access at two of the city's most popular shops to experience this reality firsthand. In this exclusive exposé, I'll take you behind all the smoke and mirrors to reveal what it's really like to work in the Dutch coffeeshop industry.

AMNESIA

I first met Sissi back in 1994, on my very first visit to Amsterdam for the Seventh Cannabis Cup. She ran the Quentin Hotel—the hip little place where the HT staff and celebrity judges used to stay every year—and was known to blaze with us in the lobby at many a 4:20 a.m. ceremony. It was also in that lobby, in 2000, that she met the owner of Barney's (and her future husband) Derry. Soon after, she sold the hotel and opened her own coffeeshop—Amnesia. Located at Herengracht 133 just a few blocks from the Barney's shops on Haarlemmerstraat, Amnesia is one of the city's chilliest, most stylish smoke spots. This is where I'd be spending most of my time this week, learning the ins and outs of the industry from her experienced staff.

I arrive at the shop around noon, and Sissi introduces me to the two employees on duty that day: Ashley, the 23-year-old barista from New Orleans, and buxom Brazilian dealer Raphaela. It's their job to see to it that customers have a positive experience in the shop. For Ashley, this means serving up coffees, toasties, milk shakes and the shop's signature "Limonana" drink from behind the bar. For Raphaela, it means slinging the herb. (Amnesia, I learn, is actually one of the only shops in town to have female dealers.)

There are two shifts—a morning shift from 9 to 5, and a night shift from 5 until closing (coffeeshops are required by law to close at 1 a.m.). All of the staff share certain duties, like mopping up, cleaning out the pipes and bongs, helping customers to operate the Volcanos, and serving as the shop's de facto bouncers. "If someone comes in on hard drugs and I can see it, is using tobacco or alcohol, or is disturbing our customers, I have to be able to deal with it and make them leave," Raphaela tells me.

Being a dealer at a coffeeshop is very different from being a dealer back in the States. Dealers here work standard eight-hour shifts and

earn a salary of about 10 euros an hour (plus tips) regardless of how much they sell. Legally, they're not permitted to sell more than five grams to a person per day. In addition, the dealers are expected to "become the menu," as Sissi puts it—that is, to have an intimate knowledge of every strain in the shop: their genetics, where and how they were grown, and what type of high they provide. This also means being a good salesperson—not only pushing the most popular strains, but the ones that aren't moving as well. Dealers aren't usually allowed to smoke on the job, but they are encouraged to light up after their shifts.

"There are probably dealers that don't smoke," says Raphaela, "but I think they should, because you have to know what you're talking about."

After getting the 411 on general shop procedure, it's time for me to get hands-on and learn how to work the counter. Raphaela stands over my shoulder and begins showing me the ropes: *Sativas* are kept in the left drawer, *indicas* and crosses in the right, hashes down below. As for the register, they have a simple yet sophisticated computer system that precisely monitors all of the revenue and inventory. Making a sale is as easy as punching the key for that strain, putting the proper amount onto the scale and hitting "OK." Raphaela oversees as I prepare a few grams of Top Dawg for a guy from Virginia, who, she informs me, is a regular customer. This entitles him to a 10 percent discount (staff get 20 percent)—and, of course, every sale comes with free rolling papers, tips or a lighter.

According to Raphaela, the shop sells on average about 300 to 400 grams a day. Since they're allowed to have only 500 grams on the premises, they must continually replenish their inventory throughout the day. But while it's legal for them to sell marijuana, it's technically illegal for them to grow or purchase it. So where does all the weed come from? From an underground network of deliverymen called "runners."



Amnesia's dealer
Raphaella



Morcego's work station



the "runhouse" stash



for various coffeeshops. After explaining to him who I am and why I'm here, I convince him to let me accompany him on his rounds. We head back to his "runhouse"—his secret workspace on the outskirts of town. It's a small, stinky attic room in a residential area that's packed with various scales, devices, supplies, and several bags of weed and hash. Here, he allows me to interview him and observe him at work.

First off, he tears open a bag of the strain LSD (a.k.a. Lucy) and begins weighing out 15-gram increments (taking care not to break any big nuggets), which he then vacuum-seals, labels and puts into a large plastic container to await delivery.

Next, he takes all of the shake left over and scrapes it into a bowl to make joints and reefers (joints have tobacco in them, reefers are pure marijuana). Morcego rolls so many joints that he literally has calluses on his thumbs and forefingers. To avoid this, he's now using a Mountain High hexagonal Styrofoam multiple joint-making machine. He just inserts pre-rolled cone papers into the 60 slots; then he pours the weed onto the top and shakes it until all of it falls into the holes and fills the cones. With a quick turn of the top, the joints all pop up and he begins pulling them out, tapping them to pack them tighter, twisting them closed, inserting them into plastic tubes and capping them.

"Joints are color-coded by cap," he explains, with each color representing a different strain or mixture of weed and tobacco. "Now we make a joint for us," he says smiling, gathering up the remaining powder and rolling a fat cone. Unlike dealers, runners are allowed to smoke on the job as long as they don't neglect their duties, and they're also allowed to keep small amounts of shake and kif.

When the joint making is done, it's on to the hash. Morcego pulls out a few small, tan bricks of Tibisla and, with a large knife, begins slicing them into 10-gram chunks. These too are vacuum-sealed and labeled. Afterwards, he scrapes the knife and slides the scrapings into a huge tub of tobacco.

"I like to put this into the House Mix joints," he snickers. "Sometimes people complain, 'Damn—it's too strong!' But hey—we put the good shit in."

ON THE RUN

Runners are the unsung heroes of the coffeeshop industry—noble outlaws operating in the shadows, responsible for supplying the shops with all of the weed they need. They work eight-hour shifts, five days a week. They typically make from two to six runs daily, with each run taking about 15 to 20 minutes. Each day, dealers periodically place orders for whichever strains are running low. Strains can be ordered in 15- or 25-gram bags, hashes in 10-gram bags, and joints in bundles of five, 10 or 15. Runners must be on call at all times, and whether a shop needs 15 grams or 150 grams, when they get the call, they have to go.

Sure enough, it isn't long before Raphaella has to place an order. I hurry out and rent a bike, and make it back just in time to catch the runner on duty—"Morcego" (a code name)—before he leaves. Morcego works for one of the clandestine companies that provides this service

We're just finishing our joint when his phone rings: It's Amnesia again—they already need to restock on Utopia Haze and Shiraz. Twenty minutes later, we're back at the shop with the order. I thank Morcego for his time and trust and bid him goodbye as he heads off on his next run, and I head back behind the counter to process the order with Raphaela.

Whenever an order comes in, it must be added to the stock. She does this by zeroing out the current stock on the scale, adding the contents of the new bag, then hitting "add to inventory." She then prints out a receipt of the entire transaction and gives a copy to the runner for his records. This meticulous balancing-out of the inventory happens after each delivery, and at the beginning and end of every shift. If the total stock ever goes over 500 grams, Raphaela has to give some back to the runner. It's imperative that the amount of inventory in the shop always matches up with what's in the computer and that no overages or items are unaccounted for, just in case the Tax Control shows up.

At least once a year, tax agents—accompanied by up to 10 undercover police officers—make an unannounced visit to the shop for a surprise audit. They lock the doors, not allowing anyone to enter or leave, and begin checking *everything*. They take a full inventory of the stock—not only cannabis and hashish, but food and coffee as well—weighing it all out and making sure it exactly matches the shop's accounting. Being off by even a small amount can carry fines, and in serious cases can result in a suspension or permanent closing of the shop.

When an audit like this occurs, the person in charge of dealing with it is the *beheerder*. A *beheerder* is an employee who's been registered and certified by the government to be an official administrator of the shop, qualified to answer any and all questions regarding the business. Shops are required to have at least one *beheerder* on duty at all times—this shift, that person is Raphaela.

"When Control comes, they bring dogs to search for hard drugs or hidden extra weed, so they're very tight," she says. "They check every little space ... but we've always been on regulation."

By the end of my shift, I've learned more about how a coffeeshop works than I have in all my previous 15 visits to Amsterdam combined. Little did I realize that this was just the tip of the iceberg ...

RUNHOUSE BLUES

When I report for duty the next day, I'm introduced to "Monty"—one of the company's head runners and an old-school veteran of the trade. He was very suspicious of me at first, but after talking with him for an

"There's only about six people in the world who know about this room," Monty says nervously as he turns the key. "And that's about five too many, I'd say."

hour or so, I began to earn his trust, and eventually persuaded him to take me back to his workspace—a.k.a. the "storehouse."

Monty leads me along a zigzag of *straats*, *grachts* and alleys to an unmarked door, which opens into a dark, musty storage room. All the way in the back corner, past an obstacle course of dusty old junk, there's a small door marked "*Bestolan*" (private). "There's only about six people in the world who know about this room," Monty says nervously as he turns the key. "And that's



about five too many, I'd say." Inside is basically a large closet. On one side, there's a small desk area with the same tools I'd seen at Morcego's; on the other, there are cardboard boxes filled with weed. It's no wonder that Monty was apprehensive about bringing me here: Whereas Morcego's room contained only about two or three days worth of stock, this room has considerably more. Working at HIGH TIMES, I've seen some large amounts of weed before, but never anything like this. "All the glamour, eh?" Monty jokes. I was obviously taken aback, which seemed to amuse him.

"In the beginning, you're like 'Oh wow!'" he says. "But after a little while, it just becomes normal, it's nothing. I don't know what would impress me anymore."

As a head runner, Monty deals with much bigger transactions and quantities than the standard runner and has far more responsibility. Despite his love for marijuana, he admits that most of the time, he finds his job neither fun nor exciting. He can spend up to 15 or 16 hours a day alone in this tiny room, with no companionship save a quietly playing radio and the pungent piles of green and brown around him.

"It's a very lonely job—you're on your own, you've got no support, you can't allow anyone to know what you're doing. Your life becomes nothing but bicycles, bags and telephones," he says.

Like a CIA agent, Monty's forced to lie about what he does for a living—even to his close friends. I can see that he doesn't get to talk about his employment very often, because

now that he can, the floodgates open. Within minutes, his previous paranoia gives way to an almost childlike enthusiasm, and like a sinner at confession, he begins telling me every little detail of the job.

"First, I pick up a bag from an approved grower and bring it back here to check it over for quality. Derry is very demanding, and if quality is below par, it gets rejected immediately."

Like Morcego, he then has to break down the sacks into smaller bags—only with such large amounts, that takes quite a bit longer.

"See this?" he says, opening a large sack marked "NYCD" and weighing out a 15-gram bag. "Imagine doing this again and again and again for all of these.

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"Smell is your big worry here," he cautions, pointing to the exhaust fan whirring away overhead.

He begins pulling out bag after bag of hashish, explaining each one's origin and comparing the various stamps and markings. "This is Malana, all the way from India. See the shape of the shoe? How do you think that got into the country? And these here, they're Moroccan—Caramello. And this one is Iceolator powder, made right here in Amsterdam."

We're only at the storehouse for half an hour or so when Monty's phone rings. It's his other runner, "Curly"—he needs to restock his runhouse for the week. Ten minutes later, Curly arrives with a large rucksack and an inventory list. To my surprise, he's an American in his early twenties, so naturally I'm curious as to how he ended up with this position.

"The hardest part for me was getting over here and finding a place to live," Curly says. "After that, it was just by chance that I was offered this job."

Perhaps it's because of his youth and inexperience, but unlike Monty, Curly has no mixed feelings about what he does. "I love my job," he tells me. "It's a dream job—absolutely. I get up in the morning and I *want* to do it. It's a great feeling, actually working for something that you believe in."

"He needs a bit of everything," Monty announces after reviewing the shopping list. It's time for me to get my hands dirty, as Monty sets me to work putting the order together. Ten bags of Crimea Blue ... 10 bags of Hawaiian Snow ... 10 bags of Blue Cheese ... six bags of Red Dragon ... four bags of Amnesia Haze ... one Nepalese Temple Ball ...

Before long, Curly's backpack is completely stuffed. "We'll have to do it in two runs," Monty decides. "We couldn't possibly do the whole stock at one time—it's too big and bulky."

"If you just have this bag," Curly explains, holding up the pack, "you could be going camping or be a tourist. But if you have a 'body bag,' then you're drawing attention—and that's when you start getting paranoid."

And sometimes, the guys tell me, that paranoia can become overwhelming. "You start to feel like you're always being watched, followed," says Monty. "We [runners] say, if we get nervous, tell each other—be honest. Say, 'I can't do it today—I need a break.' We had one runner that got too paranoid and never told us, and it manifested. We had to suspend him."

Surely that paranoia is understandable: According to Dutch law, a person is only allowed to possess five grams of cannabis. Because a runner's duties require him to transport many times that amount, they take tremendous risks every day and subsequently are forced to take serious precautions to avoid detection. Like undercover agents, they employ code names, disguises and special phones used only for orders to avoid being traced. They change their clothes several times a day, spray themselves with colognes, vary their routes on each run and avoid writing down any names—preferring numerical coding to designate an order's origin and destination. Of course, the local authorities aren't fools; they know the cof-

hash assortment



Caramello



Malana "shoe hash"

feeshops are getting their weed from somewhere. But since the shops comprise such a huge part of the city's economy, they tend to turn a blind eye, for the most part. Nevertheless, the police can arrest a runner any time they want.

So how scared are they of getting busted? "I just cycle normally and be cool," Morcego told me. "This city is too crazy for cops to come after us. There are too many labs for Ecstasy, coke, other crazy shit; that matters more to them. I've been stopped, but I just show my ID and it's no problem. If somebody busts me, I'd say I bought it on the street in the red-light district."

But Monty isn't quite as nonchalant about encounters with the *Politie*. "Try explaining to an officer why you've got 20 different kinds of weed, all labeled, with your handwriting and fingerprints on it. Plus if they catch you on a run, they'll probably search your house and find more. That's why we keep no more than three days worth at the runhouses—any more than that and the penalties go up."

Actually, they seem less worried about getting busted than of being robbed. If a runner gets robbed, he could lose several days' worth of inventory—and, obviously, he can't go to the police for help.

"In our heart of hearts, we don't think we're doing anything wrong," Monty opines. "We're not dealers—there's no money changing hands. We're just deliverymen, doing a job for an hourly rate. But, of course, we can't say that in court."

Let's hope they never have to. These brave blokes are the backbone of the coffeeshop business—without them, the city's entire tourism industry would go up in smoke.

TALKING SHOP

After experiencing a day in the life of both a dealer and a runner, I was eager for a taste of the big time. I sat down with Derry for some one-on-one time in his office at Barney's Uptown, hoping to hear about the glamorous life of being a marijuana mogul. Or so I thought ... what I learned was that owning a coffeeshop is a rather tricky and stressful business.

"You don't know from one day to another whether you're going to be open or not,"

Like undercover agents, they employ code names, disguises and special phones used only for orders to avoid being traced.

Derry tells me. "There are so many strict laws that are so easy to break ... it's like walking a tightrope."

Contrary to public perception, cannabis is not legal in Holland—it's merely tolerated (a policy instituted in 1980 called *gedoogbeleid*). Back in 1995, the Dutch government issued close to 700 coffeeshop licenses to just



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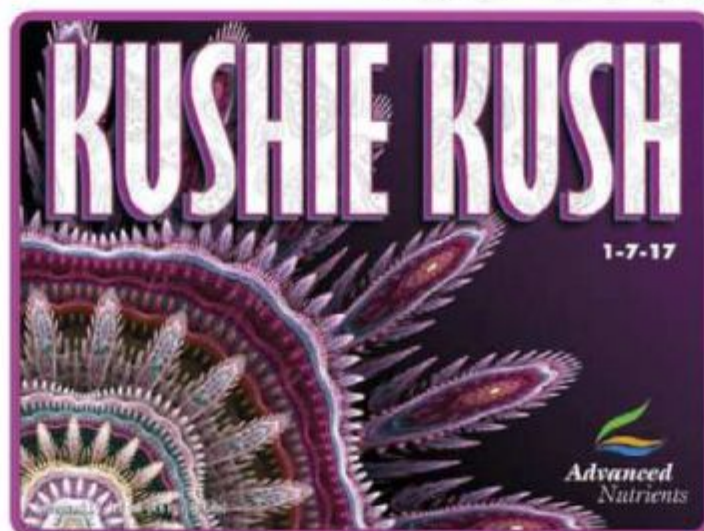
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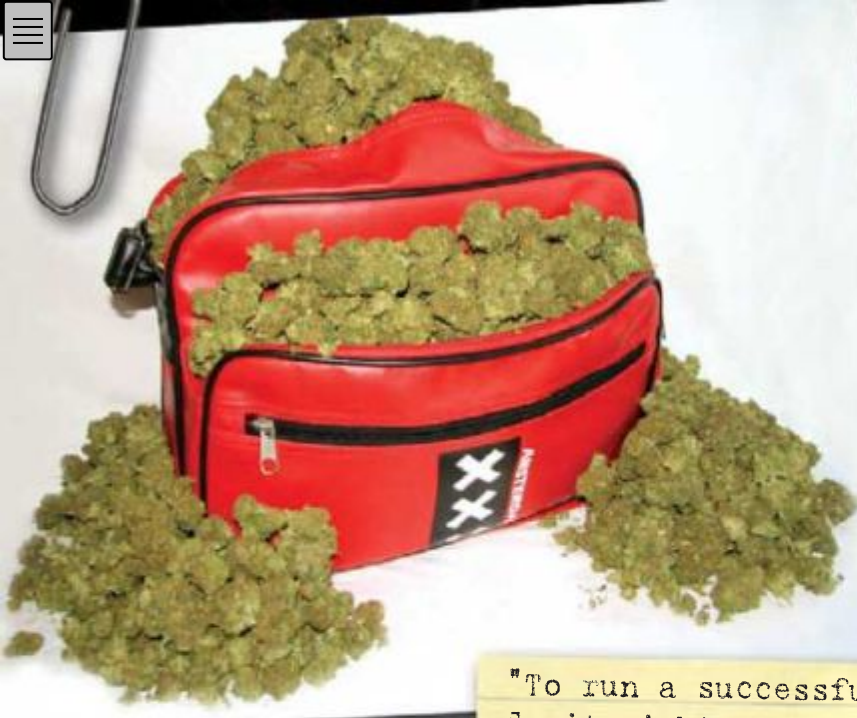
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come at you from a point of total suspicion, because they don't see you as a business owner—they see you as a drug dealer. That's their training."

In spite of all the daunting legal and financial challenges that their chosen profession entails, Derry and his colleagues wouldn't trade it for all the tulips in Holland.

"The most rewarding thing for me is seeing the environment we've created," Derry says. "To run a successful coffeeshop and do it right, you have to really love cannabis. If you don't smoke, you won't really get it. It's a pleasure for me to come to work every day and watch all my staff and clients be so happy. This is the real satisfaction."

Of course, winning 32 Cannabis Cup awards can be pretty satisfying, too. Both Derry and Sissi look forward to the Cup each year with great excitement, beginning their preparations for the event as early as spring. According to Barney's manager James, in the two weeks before the Cup, the major shops are filled with an eerie quiet. Most of the owners and main staff are behind the scenes—fine-tuning their final preparations and resting up for the coming storm.

"Generally speaking, the busiest time of year is the summer," Derry says. "But compared to the Cannabis Cup, it's nothing. Every year, from three days before until three days after, it's nonstop, 24 hours. It's incredibly intense." For most of the week, staffs have to work overtime—in

some cases, even double shifts. Runners make a minimum of eight to 10 trips a day, and dealers dole out bags faster than they can order them. So when you're at the Cup this November and you're ordering that cup of coffee or nug of Utopia Haze, remember to be patient, be generous, and be thankful for all the hard work that goes into making Amsterdam the stoniest city on earth.

"To run a successful coffeeshop and do it right, you have to really love cannabis. If you don't smoke, you won't really get it."

GOING DUTCH

So ... is it possible for you to own a coffeeshop? Unfortunately, the answer is no. Not only is it impossible to obtain a new license, but the existing licenses are nontransferable to anyone but an immediate family member.

So much for owning one ... but what are your chances of working at one? Realistically, not great. The Netherlands makes it extremely difficult to work here if you're not a legal resident. Dutch law states that non-Europeans can only get a job if there are no qualified EU citizens available, so learning to speak some Dutch may help. It's fairly easy to get a student-resident permit, but students aren't allowed to work. So how did the girls at Amnesia do it? Well, Raphaela's father is Swiss, and his EU citizenship made it easier for her to become a legal resident. But what about Ashley, our barista from the Big Easy?

"My boyfriend is Dutch," she says, "and he sponsored me."

That's right, folks—your best bet is to hook up with a Dutch citizen who's willing to sponsor you. But a sponsor must make an income sufficient to support you and has to file paperwork stating that you'll be their financial responsibility, so good luck with that.

When it comes to being a runner, you've got a much better shot.

Runners work off the books and get paid in cash, so they don't have to be legal residents or have work visas. But you'll have to find a shop owner willing to trust you with their inventory, and you'll be compounding your illegal resident status with criminal activity.

However you slice it, it'll take a lot of determination—and even more luck—for you to score a job in the cannabis capital of the world. But if your mind is truly made up, there is some good news: Barney's is hiring.

about anybody who applied for one. These licenses basically allow the bearer to possess up to 500 grams of cannabis, and to sell no more than five grams of it per person per day to anybody over 18 years of age. But the licenses also require that you maintain a clean environment and meticulous records and strictly enforce the rules—and the rules are constantly changing.

In April 2007, the Netherlands passed a law prohibiting alcohol from being served in the coffeeshops. As of July 2008, no tobacco is allowed either—a policy that alienated their European clientele, who prefer their joints mixed. This led some shops to create enclosed smoking areas, while others simply offer alternative herbal "smoking blends" to mix with the weed. There's another law that was passed in 2008 stating that shops cannot be within 250 meters of a secondary school (i.e., a school that has students from 12 to 18 years of age). Out in Utrecht, still another law was passed prohibiting shops from being closer than 250 meters from each other—a law that many fear may someday make its way to Amsterdam. Of the original 700-plus coffeeshops, there are now only about 200 left, and 70 or 80 more shops are expected to permanently close their doors by January 1, 2012. And thanks to the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), the center-right party recently elected to power, the number of shops will likely continue to shrink.

"They're not finished yet—they're still looking for more criteria to close coffeeshops down," Derry says. "There will never come a point when there will be less pressure on us; it's always going to be oppression."

But the industry isn't taking this lying down. Derry and Sissi, along with Arjan of the Green House and several other prominent shop owners, are part of a union called the BCD that lobbies on behalf of Amsterdam's cannabis retailers. Much like dispensary owners in California, they point to the taxes they pay (around 25 percent of the price of every bud sold) as proof of their value to the nation's economy.

"There's no VAT [the EU's version of the sales tax] on marijuana, because it's technically an illegal substance," Derry explains, "but we pay income tax on the money we declare." Facing audits and accusations of money laundering, some shops (including Amnesia and Barney's) are now calling for their tax records to be made public.

"The tax office is very interested in coffeeshops and what they do. They want your money, but they



Barney's is hiring.

Heartfelt thanks to Sissi and Derry, and to the runners and staffs of Amnesia and Barney's, for their amazing hospitality, cooperation and trust. See you in November!

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Sour Grapes provide frosty nuggets full of flavor.

Casey Jones yields wonderfully when properly grown.



The Collectors at work in their cannabis laboratory.



Take a secret tour inside the growroom of a meticulous farming couple who have made a hobby of accumulating as many tasty and potent pot varieties as they can gather.

Story & Photos by Freebie

THE STRAIN

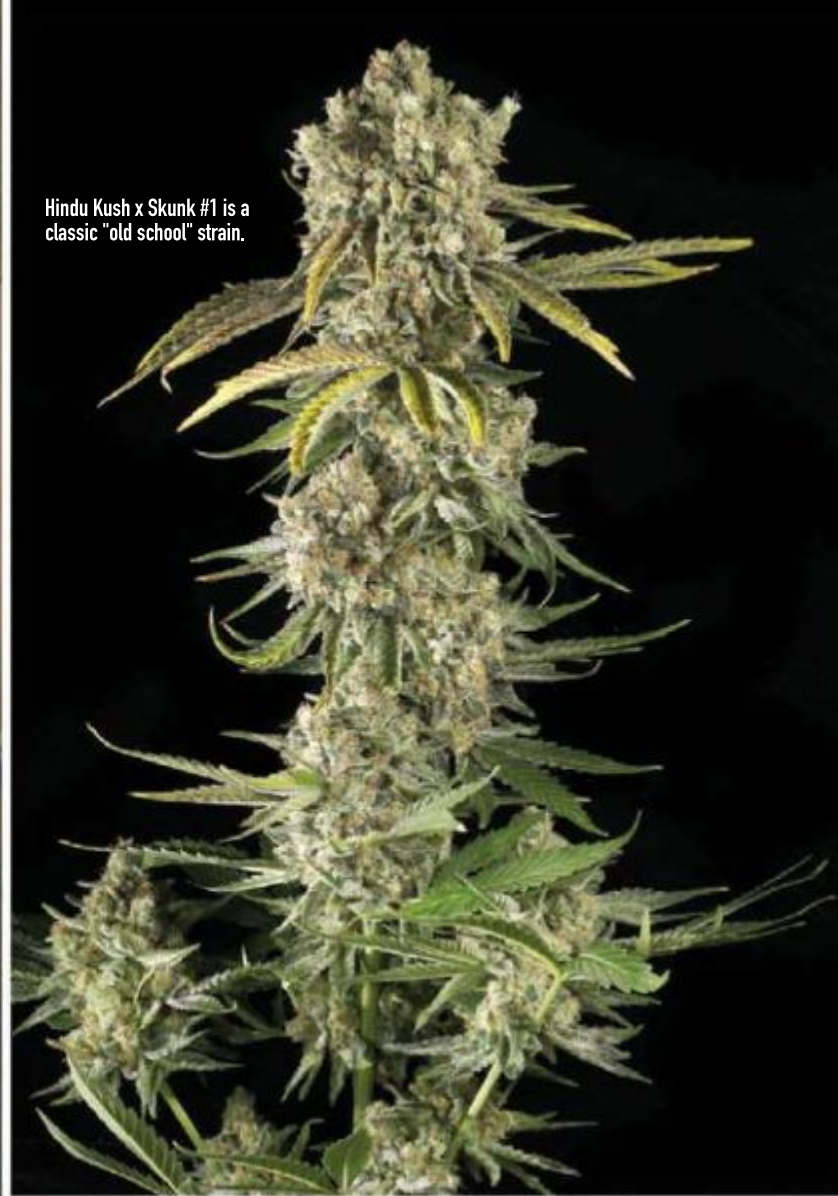
Meet the Collectors

So there's this guy, he knows a guy who knows a guy who heard that this *other* dude has a connection. Now, this connection isn't just a good connection, he's *the* connection. What if this connection—let's call him "The Collector"—was growing every strain you've ever heard of and then some? Pretty sweet.

So when the Collector and his lovely wife—let's call her "Mrs. Collector"—decided to move out west and get active in the medical-marijuana scene there, we thought we'd lost our connection forever. Instead, the Collector said that he'd be happy to fly us all out to help him trim his harvests and reap the rewards. Six times a year, for three or four days at a time, he'd set us up, all expenses paid; he needs a good crew to help trim all those amazing strains, and we're trustworthy. So good, then it's settled—the Collectors are moving, but they'll take good care of us.

Fast-forward nine months. It's time again: "Airline tickets are waiting for you, and I'll see you at the airport." The suited chauffeurs with nametags wait patiently as the crew arrives and is escorted by Cadillac back to the crib. The next three days will be spent smoking and trimming the best pot in the world.

There'd be a line a mile long if you could post a job listing like this on the Internet. I can see it already: "Get paid to travel and experience California's new and exciting green movement. Must like good people and good food. No heavy lifting. Must like working in a relaxed environment and listening to good music. Must enjoy the finer things in life and be willing to work late. Earn major frequent-flier mileage. No drug testing. No corporate ladder. Set your own hours. Must be able to sit for extended periods of time, know how to use scissors, and have the use of both hands."



Hindu Kush x Skunk #1 is a classic "old school" strain.

COLLECTORS

The Connoisseur and the Aficionados

Upon entering the home of the Collectors, one knows that greatness is about. It could be the dozens of huge labeled jars, the pungent aromas in the air, the crew working away or the Collectors themselves. They do an amazing job taking care of everyone. The fridge is stocked with an abundance of beverages and munchables: soda, juices, water, beer and wine, as well as snacks and finger food, everything from healthy fruit, yogurt, cheeses and vegetable platters to candy bars, sandwiches, sliced meats, jellies, dips, guacamole ... and don't forget the leftover barbecue!

Like a machine, the assembled crew systematically trims pounds and pounds of amazing-looking colas. It's tedious and backbreaking work, but it must be done. The Collectors have amassed a vast array of glass bong, and the crew has its pick of flavors and utensils to help relieve any back pain from trimming for so many hours in a row.

Before going upstairs to see the growrooms, I notice a drying method that I've never seen before, but which actually seems very logical and potentially quite a space saver. The crew is hanging the trimmed buds on what look like tomato wires—you know, those round chicken-wire baskets about four feet tall and a foot and half in diameter. These "racks" are easy to move and allow airflow completely around the drying buds. No screens, no strings—simply reusable, round bud-hanging racks. The Collectors have used this method of drying for some time now, and they're quite pleased with it.



A close-up shows extreme trichome development.



Tomato cages double as innovative drying racks.

The samples are exceptional in all areas: look, smell, taste and high.

The trellis system keeps branches at optimal light levels.



Strain Sampling

After the introductions and some good old-fashioned weed smoking are finished, we get down to business: "This strain's the best!" "No, *this* strain's the best!" "Dude, you gotta try this one, *it's* the best!" In the end, it's a hung jury: It's hard to say which one is the best with so many great varieties to sample. Having attended the Cannabis Cup a few times and seen the best of the best, I gotta say, the Collectors certainly have a competitive-looking assortment. The samples are exceptional in all areas: look, smell, taste and high. Alas, there are a number of them—too many to name—that deserve a second try ... but with so many great strains and so little time, one has to make sacrifices.

Soil or Hydro?

The Collector has been growing in soil for 15 or so years, but he recently changed over to hydroponics. Having seen every kind of garden under the sun, I'd say that hydro gardens are cleaner and more productive than any other method out there today. Someone convinced the Collector to go this route, and he's taken to the system quite well indeed. He was warned before starting out that there'd be a few new things to keep in mind. After all, growing in soil is a little bit like driving an old VW beetle: Your chances of getting to your destination are pretty good (if you happen to know a good mechanic), but it's a slow and arduous journey. Hydroponic farming, on the other hand, is more like an Italian racecar: You'll be going fast from the get-go, but you can crash and burn just as quickly. The Collector has been driving Volkswagens for the last decade and a half, and now he was stepping up to a Ferrari with little or no previous experience. However, with the proper instructions, anyone can figure out a hydroponic system—especially if you also have a beautiful wife with a degree in horticulture. And master it, they have—in fact, the Collectors have really outdone themselves. Their new growing techniques and setup have literally transformed their two rooms into a state-of-the-art medical-marijuana production facility.

Romancing the Mother Plants

The vegetative grow-room is simple and clean, with lots of strains; however, the Collectors have adopted an interesting approach to veg time—more on that later. At one point, they had in excess of 60 varieties growing and flowering on the premises. Can anyone imagine the work involved in keeping that many different strains around?



Motherplants and clones rest in the vegetative area.

When you factor in the different flowering times and needs for all the various plants, the logistics are mind-boggling: "That one takes 10 weeks and doesn't want any nitrogen at all, while that one is done by week eight and wants all the food we can throw at her." For most people, it would be a nightmare, but it's a labor of love for the Collectors.

From big, healthy mother plants to freshly cut clones, the veg room was busy and full of plants in various stages of growth. A single 1,000-watt light took care of most of the mothers. A series of 4-foot fluorescent bulbs was mounted in metal rack shelves that housed the cuttings and small plants. There were even some regular grow bulbs that you might find at Home Depot being used to light any plants in dark areas. All told, there were dozens of strains, each with a nametag, establishing themselves as healthy mothers.

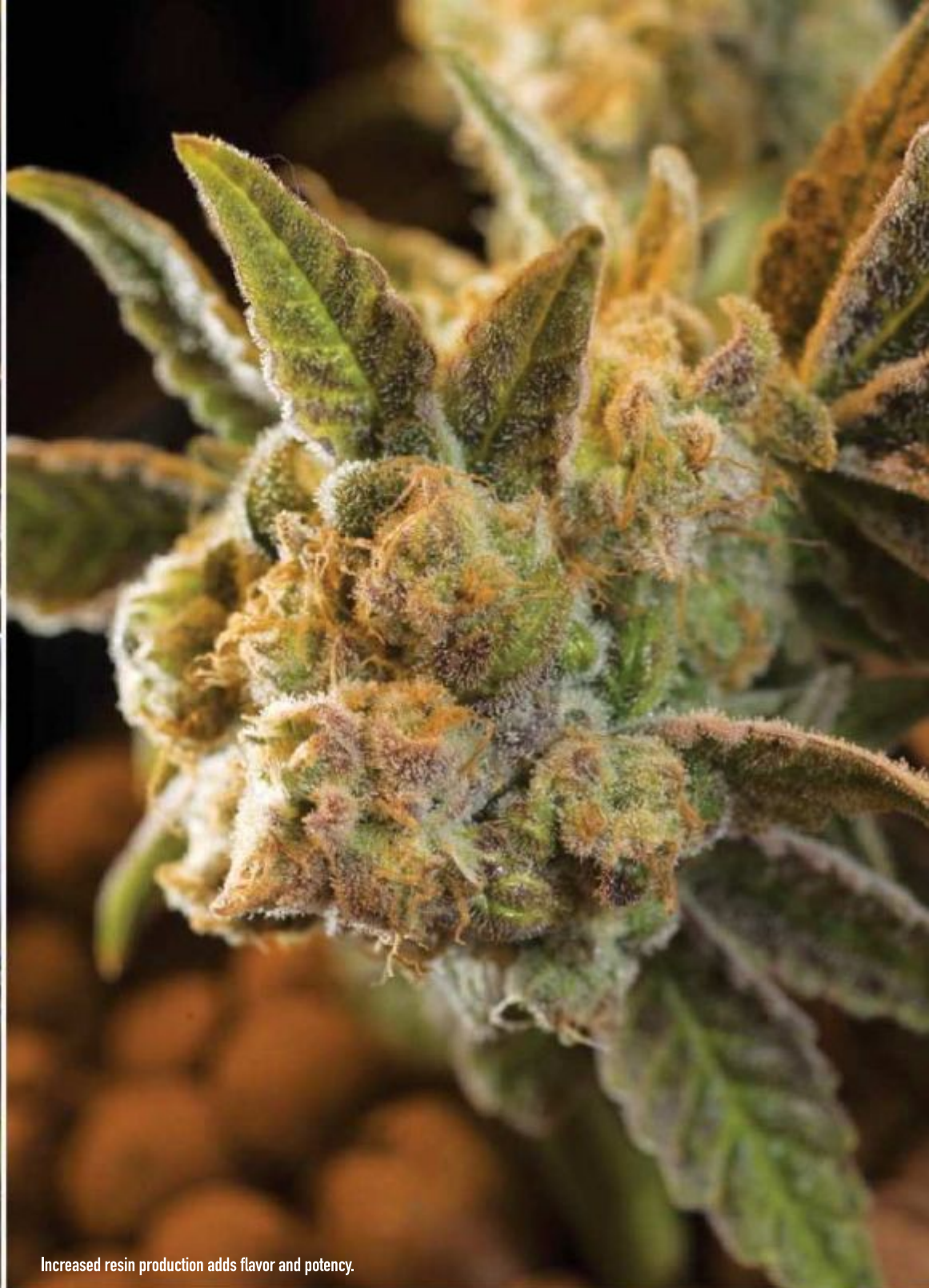
The Collector is a man of unequalled generosity. Some growers never let anyone else in on "their strain." I guess I can understand why: They don't want everyone to have it because then it won't be a rarity anymore. The Collector, on the other hand, refuses to hoard strains. More on that later as well.



Grow rocks allow roots access to oxygen and nutrients.



The Collector debuts a new hybrid: Strawberry Cough x Deep Chunk.



Increased resin production adds flavor and potency.

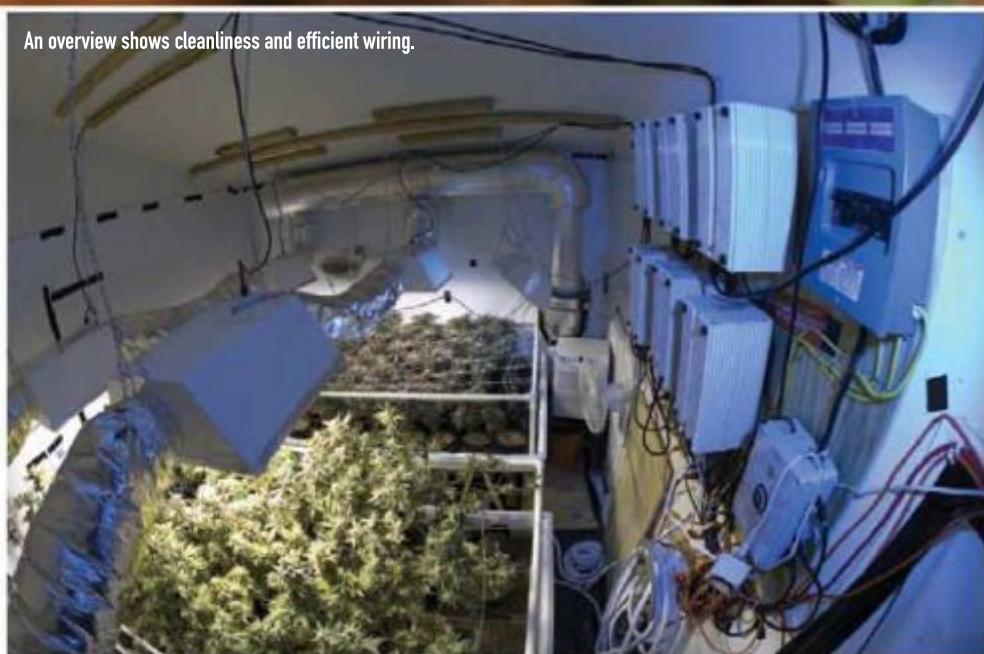
Flower Power

Here's the quick-and-dirty on their setup: Six inline, air-cooled 1,000-watt lights. Three 4-by-8-foot hydro trays. CO₂-enriched, air-conditioned and environmentally controlled. An ebb-and-flow recirculating system.

Upon entering the main flowering room and putting on my sunglasses, I see many ripe plants in their final hours of life. Three large trays house all the plants. The first tray, on the left, is for plants with the shortest flowering cycle. It was a mix of a dozen or so amazing-looking varieties—from the football-sized colas of the Casey Jones to the solid, fruity tops of the Space Queen, they all had unique qualities to them. The middle tray was full of the Collectors' mainstay: Sour Grapes, a beautiful, light green plant with hints of purple and orange. She's highly resinous and very pungent, stays short and stocky, and produces thick, heavy tops. The flowering time on this one was under eight weeks.

In the last tray, to the right, the plants were so uniform that it didn't seem right. It was full of Strawberry Cough x Deep Chunk. The whole tray was so purple that it almost looked black. This strain is fruity and chunky—no plant over 16 inches tall, and each one done to perfection and ready for harvest.

An overview shows cleanliness and efficient wiring.





These vegetative plants are being readied for flowering.



Bottom branches are trimmed to increase production of top colas.

Vegging Out

The Collectors use a growth plan that basically allows for zero vegetative-growth time. The clones are taken and, once they're established, go right into the flowering room. This is why the plants stay so short and easy to maintain, and also why the Collectors are able to pull off six harvests a year. With no veg time, the only thing holding them back is the flowering time of each variety.

The main flowering room is easy to move around in. Each tray, with the exception of the one on the far right, can be accessed on both sides, making them easy to clean and maintain. The growing medium is hydro-corn in small black bags, with a layer of hydro-corn on the bottom of the trays.

This custom-built room is simple, clean and well designed from the bottom up, with the tables and ducting for the lights fitting in perfectly. To make sure the air temperatures stay where they want them, the Collectors included an air conditioner in the setup. This room was one of the most comfortable to work in as a photographer or grower—usually, I sweat bullets taking pictures in growrooms, but this one was great! Tons of air movement was provided by oscillating fans located all over the room. With the AC unit cranking and frozen CO₂ being injected, this place was heaven for the plants.

Feeding Frenzy

As we all know (or should know), food is life. With indoor gardening, we can tweak the plants' natural building blocks in order to achieve better—even previously unattainable—results. Hydroponic growing has the ability to deliver food faster and with more specific ingredients to the plants. All we're left to master, for the most part, is the feeding schedule and the environment.

Here's the skinny on the Collector's food regimen: He uses General Hydroponics' three-part Flora series (Gro-Micro-Bloom), but follows the so-called Lucas Formula, which uses only two of the three parts. The Lucas Formula is simply one part Flora Micro (the brown stuff) and two parts Flora Bloom (pink). He uses 8 ml per gallon of Micro and 16 ml per gallon of Bloom. That puts his ppm up to around 800. He also uses Max Calmag for the first few weeks. (Note: Always add the Calmag first and then the Micro and Bloom. If no Calmag is being used, always mix the Micro with water first, then add the Bloom.)

The Collector adds both liquid and powder Kool Bloom very sparingly. He also adds Florolicious Plus sparingly, at around 1.5 ml per gallon. Sweet leach is used around week five to rid the plants of any extra fertilizers, and water is used for the rest of the cycle. He also adds a pinch of Superthrive in everything that touches the plants. With all the additives and the initial GH Micro and Bloom, he's looking at a ppm of 1,350 max—for the most part, he's right around 1,100 to 1,350. The plants are fed eight times a day while in the flowering room.

He uses Roots Excelerator during the plants' minimal time in veg, when they're transforming from babies into toddlers. Finally, he foliar-feeds with Nitrozime, which contains powerful natural growth enhancers, micronutrients and bio-stimulators.

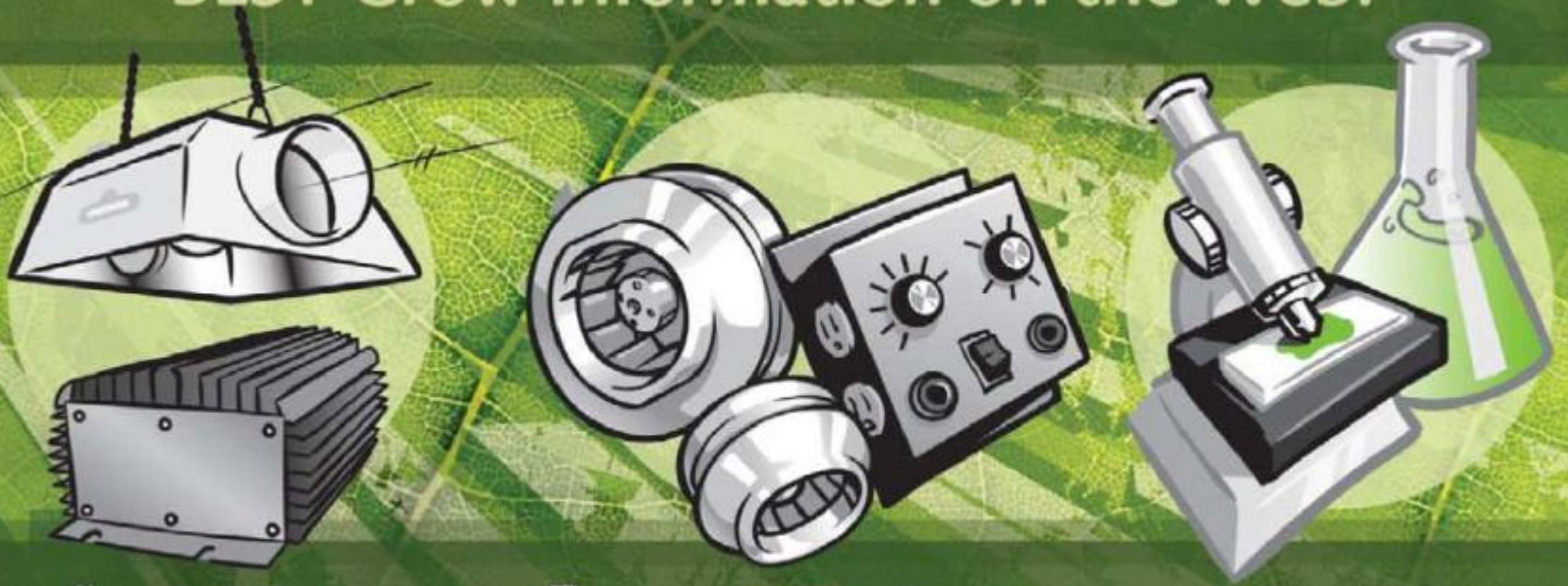
Bugging Out

To control any pest problems, the Collectors use SM-90, which is great stuff. Their next line of defense is Azatrol; this is used as a control and preventative. If this fails, they have two more options: Avid and Floramite. I guess this stuff is really nasty, since they have to get all "geared up" for the occasion. Then again, it's better to be safe than sorry with these badass bug killers; they've been known to cause serious health issues, so watch out. Of course, no pesticides are used in the flowering room—only the vegetative room.



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REVIEWS



GROW INFO



Mrs. Collector tends to the ladies in the flowering chamber.



Clean as a Whistle

One important factor when growing with a hydroponic system is cleanliness. I must say, the Collectors have the most rigid cleaning regimen I've ever seen. Each week, like clockwork, the entire room is stripped down and cleaned, and each reservoir is drained and scrubbed thoroughly using only water, sponges and elbow grease. Once everything is sparkling clean, each reservoir is refilled and restocked with food and finally pH-balanced. This ensures that the plants have exactly what they want.

As we all know, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. In this case, it means the plants are releasing back into the reservoirs the stuff that they don't want or need. By removing this waste product and replacing it with exactly what the plants *do* want, the Collectors maximize fertilizer intake while maintaining a perfectly clean environment and delivery system.

Air-cooled lights and a powerful air conditioner maintain temperature and humidity levels. The CO₂ is brought in using large cylinder tanks that must be refilled every week and a half. The entire system is run with a Sentinel CHHC-1. This unit controls everything from the CO₂ levels to the humidity. There's a remote device that can be put right where the garden is, while the controller can be in another room 20 or more feet away. And that's the whole garden in a nutshell.



The finished product, drying and ready to cure and smoke.

Sharing Is Caring

The Collector has a great attitude when it comes to sharing information and strains. He's not one of those guys who hoards his stuff; he's more than happy to spread the love around. "It's a healthy competition that I welcome," he says, adding that right now, "we don't have as many strains as we're used to," although it sure seems plenty to me. A short list would include the following:

- BAZURKEL**
- BLACKBERRY WIDOW**
- CASEY JONES**
- HAWAIIAN KUSH**
- KUSHBERRY**
- OG KUSH**
- PURPLE HASHPLANT**
- SOUR GRAPES**
- SOUR LEMON**
- SPACE QUEEN**
- STRAWBERRY COUGH**
- STRAWBERRY COUGH X DEEP CHUNK**
- BLUE DREAM**
- HINDU KUSH X SKUNK #1**
- SWEET TOOTH #4**

So for all you strain collectors out there, take note: Sharing is good—it helps to increase variety. And since I've always wanted to end a story with a famous quote, I think it's time: "Variety's the very spice of life/That gives it all its flavor." The End. ✨



SWEET TOOTH #4





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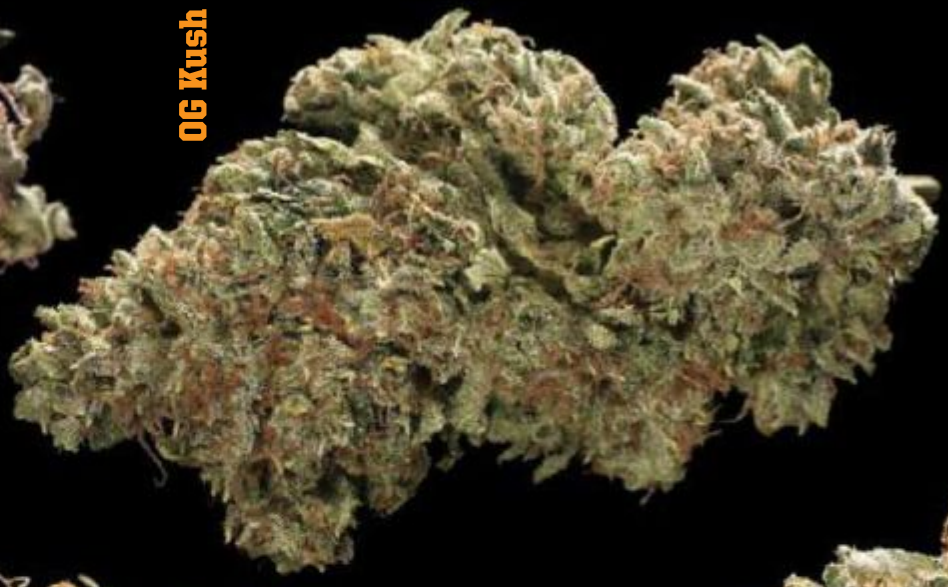
Bazurkle



Hawaiian Kush



Purple Hash Plant



OG Kush



Strawberry Cough

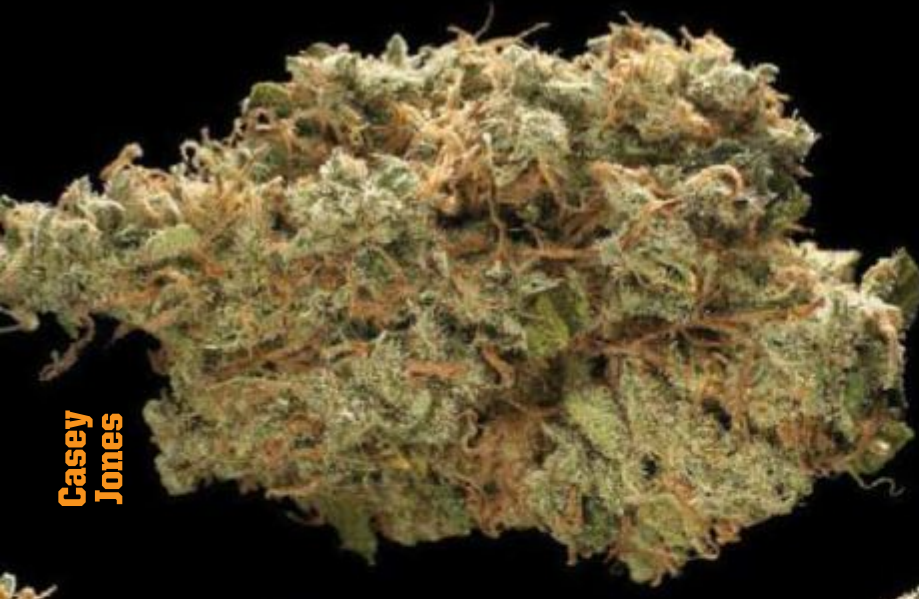


Space Queen





Casey Jones



UK Cheese



Blackberry Widow



Strawberry Cough x Chocolate Chunk



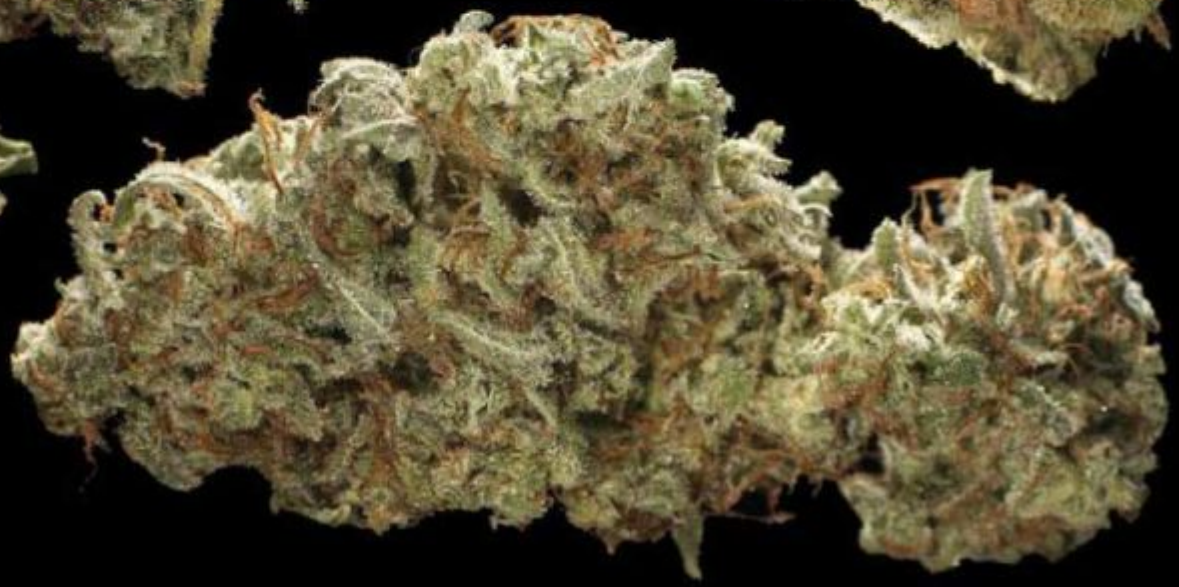
Sour Grapes



Sour Lemon



Kushberry



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Read about VISC in the March 2008 issue of High Times

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Liberty and VISC photos by Kat in Skunk issues v3#5 & v3#8

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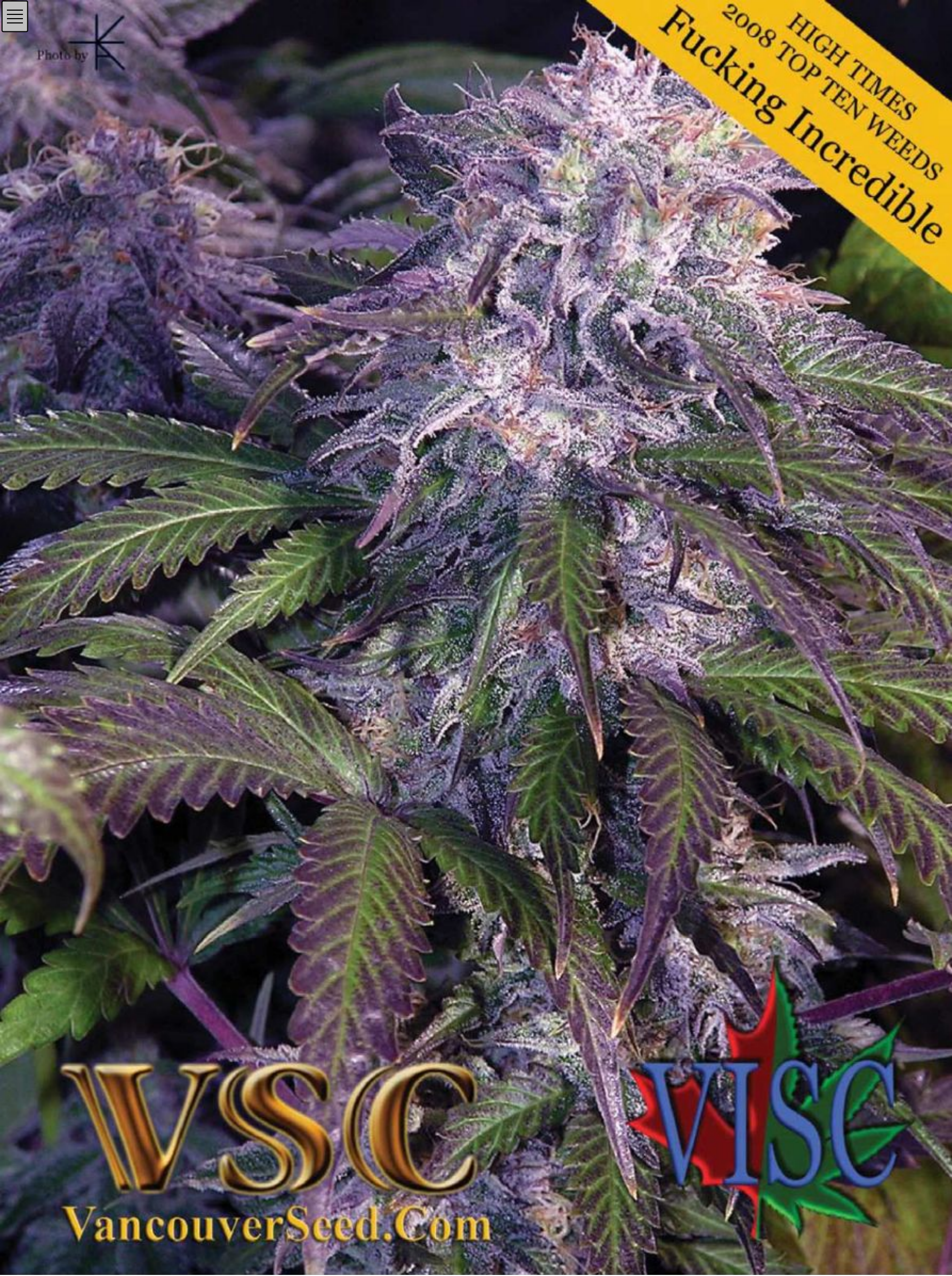
Acquisition of live cannabis seeds is illegal in the United States. Cannabis growers and consumers are one of the largest unrepresented blocks of voters in the world. This can change. We can end the persecution of innocent people, have more affordable Marijuana and a more peaceful world; if we stand our ground and demand it. Decriminalize Cannabis and instead of spending our tax dollars destroying lives, money could be spent funding our schools and hospitals or used to reduce our debts. Legalize and tax Marijuana and the income generated can change our world. Grow and help the world grow too.



Photo by



HIGH TIMES
2008 TOP TEN WEEDS
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THE HIGH TIMES GUIDE

THE TOP 20 COLLEGES FOR MARIJUANA ACTIVISM

Ah, to be young, baked, and out to change the world in these heady days of rapid momentum in the fight to legalize pot. Now is the time, and we are the stoners we've been waiting for, so HIGH TIMES calls upon all cannabis-loving Americans to join the marijuana movement and help us finally win our freedom! As strong believers in bottom-up, *grassroots* political action, we've once again asked Kris Krane, the executive director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, to help us compile our annual list of America's top colleges and universities for marijuana activism.

"In my four years as SSDP's executive director, I've watched the student movement to end the War on Drugs grow exponentially, as more and more young people join the fight to bring science, reason, and common sense to our nation's drug and marijuana policies," Krane tells HIGH TIMES. "When I started at SSDP, we had 42 approved chapters. Today, there are over 160 across the United States, with sister organizations up and running in Canada and Great Britain, and new networks forming in Mexico and Australia. Meanwhile, we significantly scaled back the law that denies financial aid to students with drug convictions, allowing tens of thousands of students to go back to school. And we launched a nationwide movement to convince universities to adopt life-saving Good Samaritan policies that shield students from possession penalties during drug- or alcohol-related emergencies.

"Having been involved with SSDP and student drug-policy activism since our founding in 1998, I've watched the student movement mature into a legitimate force for change in this country. Today's students are more sophisticated, tech-savvy and politically aware than any I've seen in my career. As I prepare to turn over the reins of SSDP to a younger person, I'm confident that this generation of students will accomplish more than we ever could have imagined 11 years ago. The student activists in SSDP and NORML have inspired me every single day that I have worked on this issue, and will continue to do so long after I formally step down as SSDP's executive director this summer."

Our heartfelt and grateful appreciation goes out to Kris for all his service to the cause of marijuana-law reform—past, present and future—and to all of the hard-working young activists striving to make it happen. Read the inspiring stories of students across the country making real progress in ending the War on Marijuana, and we're sure you'll be inspired to get involved in your own community by contacting SSDP (ssdp.org) or NORML (norml.org) and joining the green team!

Marijuana activism sure looks like fun at Students for Sensible Drug Policy's 10th Anniversary Conference, hosted by the University of Maryland.



1) University of Maryland College Park, MD

The University of Maryland SSDP and NORML chapters have been a bastion of drug-policy and marijuana activism for years, and show no signs of letting up. When Cheye Calvo, the mayor of nearby Berwyn Heights, MD, was the victim of a botched SWAT raid that resulted in the killing of his two dogs, the SSDP and NORML chapters organized rallies in support of the mayor and enlisted him to speak on campus about the perils of SWAT raids. On Cinco de Mayo, the UMD SSDP chapter joined with students at over 40 schools across the country to draw attention to the out-of-control, prohibition-fueled violence in Mexico. The UMD action was widely covered by the local media.

UMD activists recently convinced their notoriously conservative school administration to stop kicking students out of the dorms for first-time marijuana possession, and to adopt a campus-wide Good Samaritan policy, protecting students who seek medical aid for themselves or others during a drug- or alcohol-related incident. This past November, the campus also hosted SSDP's 10th-anniversary international conference, the organization's largest to date. Chapter president Irina Alexander was given SSDP's Outstanding Activist Award at the 2008 conference, and former president Anastacia Cosner was recently hired to serve as SSDP's national outreach director.

2) University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI

Michigan has become a hotbed of student drug-policy activism, with SSDP chapters at 10 schools,

including the University of Michigan, which has emerged as a leading force advocating for change in the state's drug laws. In 2008, the UM SSDP chapter helped collect signatures and get out the vote for an initiative legalizing medical marijuana in Michigan. The chapter also played a leading role in organizing statewide protests after Grand Valley State student Derek Copp was shot by police over a gram of marijuana.

This past spring, the chapter hosted SSDP's Midwest Regional Conference. UM SSDP was named Outstanding Chapter at the 2007 SSDP Conference, and chapter president Chris Chiles was named Outstanding Activist at the 2008 conference. Last but not least, the University of Michigan hosts the Hash Bash, one of the largest annual marijuana festivals in the country.

3) University of Texas El Paso, TX

The city of El Paso, TX, made national news when the mayor vetoed a resolution calling for a national dialogue on drug legalization, sending it back to the City Council. During the ensuing debate in front of the council, UTEP student and SSDP chapter leader Nubia Legarda gave emotional testimony about not being able to visit her family in nearby Juarez due to the increased drug-prohibition-fueled violence there. While the resolution ultimately didn't withstand the mayor's veto, the experience turned UTEP SSDP into a prominent voice for reforming drug laws as a means of reducing border violence. The chapter has since held a lecture series on the topic featuring retired police officers and current City Council members.

TO HIGHER EDUCATION

4) University of Colorado

Boulder, CO

Long known as a marijuana-friendly campus in a marijuana-friendly city, the University of Colorado at Boulder is also a great place to get active in marijuana-policy reform. NORML's UC Boulder chapter gained nationwide media attention when it passed a campus-wide initiative by SAFER (Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation) calling on the administration to treat marijuana-possession offenses the same as underage drinking, arguing that marijuana is safer than alcohol. This past year, the UC NORML chapter hosted a National Forum on Marijuana that featured NORML executive director Allen St. Pierre, SAFER director Mason Tvert and SSDP outreach director Jon Perri. The university also hosts the largest 4/20 celebration of any school in the country.

5) University of Utah

Salt Lake City, UT

In the heart of conservative Salt Lake City, the University of Utah has emerged as an oasis for those who support reforming our nation's draconian drug laws. The UT SSDP chapter successfully convinced the school administration to enact a life-saving Good Samaritan policy on campus and organized a successful Hempfest. Chapter president Valerie Douroux hosts a local radio show, *The Dankness*, and was presented with SSDP's Rising Star Award at the 2008 SSDP International Conference.

6) Kalamazoo College

Kalamazoo, MI

Drug-policy activists at small Kalamazoo College have made huge progress in the past year, convincing the school to enact a Good Samaritan policy, remove local police from the dorms, and create a safe-ride program. The SSDP and NORML chapters are currently moving beyond campus as well, working with the Kalamazoo government to enact the first-ever needle-exchange program in the city. Recently, the chapter hosted a debate between SSDP executive director Kris Krane and Kevin Sabet, a former speechwriter for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). In recognition of its work, the Kalamazoo SSDP was presented with the Outstanding Chapter Award at the 2008 SSDP Conference.

7) University of California - Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

Long known as America's countercultural Mecca, Berkeley is once again home to cutting-edge drug-policy activism. The UC Berkeley chapter of SSDP hosted the national organization's first-ever West Coast regional conference in April 2009, and

The War on Drugs is a war on the young. Join NORML and SSDP activists on your campus and start standing up for your rights.



has sponsored lectures featuring representatives of NORML, Americans for Safe Access and other drug-law reform organizations. UC Berkeley is also one of the only schools in the country to provide scholarship money to students who have lost their financial aid as the result of a drug conviction. This past semester, the Berkeley SSDP chapter hosted a forum on the Dutch medical-marijuana experience, featuring experts from the Netherlands and the United States.

8) University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL

The University of Central Florida boasts one of the largest and most active NORML chapters in the country. UCF NORML is involved in every facet of student government and has become well known for its marijuana-leaf float in the university's homecoming parade. The UCF NORML and SSDP chapters have been working together to convince the administration to adopt a Good Samaritan policy. The NORML chapter was also given the Outstanding Student Activist Award at NORML's 2008 Conference in Berkeley, CA.

9) University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT

The University of Connecticut may be the most active school in the country when it comes to promoting drug-policy change at the state level. UConn SSDP chapter members visited the State Legislature to testify in support of marijuana decriminalization, medical marijuana and scaling back mandatory-minimum sentences for drug offenses. They've also hosted numerous high-pro-

file drug-policy speakers on campus, including Eric Sterling of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation, Cliff Thornton of Efficacy and SSDP associate director Micah Daigle. The UConn SSDP chapter received the Outstanding Chapter Award at the 2008 SSDP conference.

10) Columbia University

New York, NY

Thanks in part to a hard-working SSDP chapter, Columbia University has emerged as one of the leading universities for drug-policy-related academics. This year, Columbia's SSDP chapter co-hosted a New York Academy of Medicine Conference entitled "New Directions for New York: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drug Policy," and the chapter will host a conference on racial profiling and marijuana arrests this fall. Chapter leaders received the prestigious Campus Copper Crown award for their service with SSDP.

11) University of California - Irvine

Irvine, CA

The UC Irvine SSDP chapter has been working with the school's administration to create a Hemp Research Center on campus that would advocate for the legalization of industrial hemp. The school's SSDP and NORML chapters recently formed a coalition of student groups—including Young Americans for Liberty, Young Democrats and College Republicans—to organize "Down for the Cause," a week-long event teaching students about grassroots activism and the War on Drugs.

12) University of New Hampshire

Dartmouth, NH

The SSDP chapter at the University of New Hampshire's Dartmouth campus has played an important role in efforts to legalize medical marijuana in the state. The chapter lobbied the State Legislature on behalf of HB 648, a medical-marijuana bill that passed earlier this year, and has since generated hundreds of letters to New Hampshire Governor John Lynch, urging him to sign the bill.

13) University of California - Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz, CA

Located in the heart of one of the most counterculture-friendly cities in America, the University of California at Santa Cruz has become a haven for drug-policy reform. This past year, the UCSC SSDP chapter has hosted such notable speakers as MAPS's Rick Doblin and WAMM's Valerie Corral. The chapter is currently working on a campus-wide Good Samaritan policy. And, of course, UCSC is home to one of the largest 4/20 gatherings in the United States.

Won't we please think about the children enough to educate them instead of incarcerating them...



14) Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL

In 2008, Florida State student and SSDP/NORML member Rachel Hoffman was murdered after being coerced into becoming a confidential informant by the local police. When the police chief tried to blame Rachel for her own death, the university's SSDP and NORML chapters took to the streets in protest and gained nationwide media attention for the case. The chapters successfully lobbied the State Legislature to enact "Rachel's Law," which prevents police from pressuring drug defendants into becoming informants without notifying their attorneys. This past spring, the FSU SSDP chapter hosted SSDP's second annual Southeast Regional Conference.

15) Northeastern University

Boston, MA

Few student groups have had to fight harder to become a recognized organization than the SSDP chapter at Northeastern University in Boston. When the administration tried to use bureaucratic procedures to prevent the chapter from forming, the students fought back and ultimately won recognition. Not content to stop there, Northeastern SSDP went on to host two highly successful conferences in their first official year of existence—an ibogaine forum co-sponsored by Cures Not Wars, and the 2009 SSDP Northeast Regional Conference. HT managing ed. Natasha Lewin is a ganja graduate of Northeastern.

16) Boston University

Boston, MA

Boston University student Stacy Fontana was motivated to get involved in drug-policy activism by a statewide voter initiative to decriminalize marijuana possession in Massachusetts. She started an SSDP chapter at BU and went on to recruit student volunteers for the Committee for Sensible Marijuana, the organization that ultimately ran a successful initiative campaign that made marijuana possession of less than an ounce a ticketable violation instead of a misdemeanor. Since then, the BU SSDP chapter has co-hosted the 2009 SSDP Northeast Regional Conference and is currently in the midst of a campaign to convince the school to enact a Good Samaritan policy. Sr. cultivation ed. Danny Danko is a BU(d) alumni.

17) University of California—San Diego

San Diego, CA

In the past year, the University of California at San Diego has become the best place in the city to get educated about the War on Drugs. The UCSD SSDP chapter has hosted numerous speakers on campus, including Judge James Gray, author Wendy Chapkis and SSDP outreach director Amber Langston, as well as organized the screenings of numerous Drug War films, including *American Drug War*, *Waiting to Inhale* and *Busted*.

18) Pitzer College

Claremont, CA

The SSDP chapter at Pitzer College in California worked tirelessly to enlist the support of the student body and student government for a Good Samaritan policy, which the school's administration finally agreed to enact. The chapter also hosted a hugely popular debate between Judge

James Gray and former ONDCP speechwriter Kevin Sabet. Chapter president Gabe Loewinger so impressed SSDP's national staff that he was granted a summer internship in 2008.

19) Yale University

New Haven, CT

Yale is not only one of the top academic institutions in the country, but also one of the most progressive when it comes to drug- and marijuana-policy. Yale became the first school in the country to reimburse funding to students who lost federal financial aid due to a drug conviction. In the past year, the Yale SSDP chapter organized lectures and film screenings, and coordinated a panel of drug-policy experts from around the country at the 2009 Rebellious Lawyers Conference.

20) Missouri Southern State Univ.

Joplin, MO

Operating in conservative Joplin, MO, the SSDP chapter at Missouri Southern State University has amazed national drug-policy activists and locals alike by fiercely advocating for drug-policy reform in a difficult political climate. In 2008, SSDP chapter president Kyle Maddy teamed up with his brother, Joplin NORML president Kelly Maddy, to attempt to put an initiative making marijuana possession the lowest law-enforcement priority on the Joplin ballot. While their campaign fell a few signatures short, it garnered massive media attention in the small Southern Missouri city. Since then, the MSSU SSDP chapter has secured a Good Samaritan policy for the school, and chapter member Darrell Sour was elected to serve on SSDP's national board of directors. ✨



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Smoking pot made Jonah Lehrer so lazy and stupid that he earned multiple advanced degrees as a Rhodes Scholar, worked with Nobel Prize winning laboratory scientists and wrote two books—including the bestseller *How We Decide*—all while still in his mid-20s.

YOUR BRAIN ON WEED

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH JONAH LEHRER. STORY AND PHOTOS BY MARY OUGHT SIX

Ever since his best-selling book, *How We Decide*, was published last year, 27-year-old neuroscientist Jonah Lehrer has enjoyed an early retirement from the laboratory, devoting his time instead to writing his next book and formulating new theorems. Lehrer's research deals largely with how and why we think the way we do, which in turn led him to think quite a lot about marijuana's effects on the central nervous system. A toker since he first tried pot as a teenager at a Bob Dylan concert, Lehrer believes that *Cannabis sativa* is better than Prozac for relieving anxiety, and that weed often helps us make the best decisions possible. His next book, a work in progress on creativity and the brain, explores an array of mind-altering avenues and substances and how they've shaped the world's most renowned artists and their works. As Lehrer nonchalantly puts it: "Well, when talking about creativity, artists and the brain, by definition you have to talk about drugs."

Despite his credentials, which include degrees from Columbia University and Oxford, this is one Rhodes Scholar who maintains a decidedly stoner demeanor, particularly when happily discussing his own pot puffing. Lehrer, who once worked as a lab technician with the Nobel Prize-winning neuroscientist Eric Kandel, is also an editor at large for *Seed* magazine and a contributing editor for *Wired*, *Scientific American Mind* and NPR's Radio Lab—not to mention an engaging and amiable human being in his own right.

In fact, Lehrer was kind enough to invite HIGH TIMES up to Cambridge, MA, for a walking tour of Harvard and a long discussion on the science behind getting high. The following is a heavily abridged excerpt from that conversation. The highly recommended full interview—including a discussion of what makes some everyday substances so addictive (no, not pot), why the "gateway" theory is utter bullshit, and insights into his latest research—can be found at hightimes.com/Lehrer/.

How did you first become interested in the effects of marijuana on anxiety?

It started just from talking to researchers and scientists who were looking at THC. People have been self-medicating with this drug for a long, long time—thousands of years—and clearly it works. The question is *why*. Why do people find this drug to be so relaxing? Why does it quash their anxiety?

Over the last couple of decades, researchers have found THC and other cannabinoid receptors clustered around brain areas that are often associated with fear and anxiety, like the amygdala. And so these scientists quite rightly pointed out that if you can create a drug that will just target specific subtypes of THC receptors, you'll get a reduction in fear and anxiety without the, you know, what policy makers *think* are the less desirable side effects: the giddiness, the things which

I actually have a quote from one of your articles: "the giddiness, stupidity"—which I find more than a little bit harsh—"and hunger." Also, isn't there evidence that those side effects have benefits of their own?

Oh, of course they have benefits! They absolutely do. I think you also see what's called the lantern theory of attention. One thing I experience with marijuana is that my attention becomes more diffuse—I'm not as able to focus on doing one thing—and that's not always a good thing. *But*, I've also written about moments of insight and what happens in your brain when you have an insight. What you find is that you're more likely to have epiphanies when you're *not* focused, when you're in these more relaxed states of mind. It's like warm showers—you often hear about people having insights in warm showers, because they're more relaxed, their attention's more diffuse, they're more able to access what are called

remote associations in the right hemisphere.

As a user, I appreciate the whole spectrum of pot's effects, the full spectrum of THC binding to cannabinoid receptors all over my brain. These receptors don't exist in the brain so we can smoke pot. They existed long before people were smoking pot—rats have them, too. It's just our good fortune that there's this plant that produces this chemical that happens to bind to these receptors. We call them "cannabinoid receptors," but they're not there because of pot; they're there because they just happen to be.

Does the brain produce cannabinoids without the aid of pot?

The brain produces a neurotransmitter which also binds to these receptors. The receptors weren't designed to bind pot or bind THC; they were designed, just like all of these receptors in the brain, for a neurotransmitter that the brain actually produces.

We don't know all the answers, though. I think my single biggest problem right now with American drug policy as it impacts science is that it's so tough to ask these questions, it's so tough to get the approval to get the product—there are just so many hoops to jump through What we need is far more work and much bigger studies, much better controlled studies. What we don't need is this kind of Puritanism and shitty government autocrats holding the science back.

You're seeing these same difficulties now with big pharmaceutical companies investing in anti-anxiety medications, which are the most lucrative segment of the mental-health market—so there are billions and billions of dollars at stake. What everyone's searching for is the magic pill that can just selectively block anxiety. So, of course, they're going to look at what's the most effective treatment people already take. And, naturally, it's pot ... but why does it work? How does it work? Can we use these powerful tools of mi-

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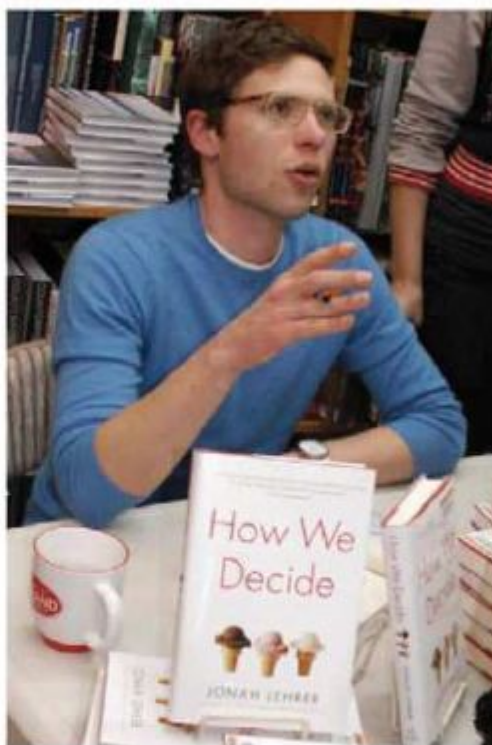
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Jonah Lehrer signing copies of his bestselling book, *How We Decide*.

'The fact that we haven't legalized marijuana, despite all of this evidence, is really just a testament to the lack of wisdom on the part of our leaders.'

bong or some other delivery vehicle of choice. There are some reasons to be skeptical that modern science can improve on these very time-tested formulas. I think it's a big question mark

whether or not we'll be able to find and improve on what is already a pretty perfect product.

crobiology to make it a little bit better—at least from the perspective of a drug company or a doctor?

Many people in the marijuana community fear the synthesizing of cannabis-derived drugs, particularly when they already know that the best, most effective treatment for them is a simple joint. Obviously, these drug companies aren't interested in changing the potency or changing the botany of plants; they just want to work with the details of THC in pill form. What I don't think you want is to somehow legalize a pill and then say, "Oh, we've got this THC pill, and now we're really going to press back and quash medical marijuana."

Yeah, I think that's the fear. And it's an understandable fear. That's up to policy makers, and I hope that policy makers aren't so shortsighted Look, I think one thing drug makers know when it comes to the brain is that the details of delivery are often just as important as the composition: how you get the drug to cross the blood/brain barrier, how quickly it crosses, how quickly it diffuses, how quickly it distributes to all the different parts of the cortex. These little details on drug delivery have huge effects—and I think one thing we will find is that people have already found the ideal way to deliver all these cannabinoids to their brain, and that's through a joint or through a

Do you have personal experience with anxiety that led you in this direction of research?

I've got anxiety problems like most people have anxiety problems—I don't have a disorder, but at the end of the day, it's nice to be able to relax. Everyone develops their own relaxation mechanism as a way of coping with stress, be it a bottle of beer, a glass of red wine or a puff on a joint. They're all ways of saying, "My day is done—I'm gonna take a load off, I'm gonna take a couple deep breaths."

It's very important to find ways of dealing with stress. Stress and anxiety are toxic. When you're chronically stressed, all sorts of bad things can happen to your body or brain Many studies show that red wine makes you live longer, but one of the reasons for that has nothing to do with the cancer-fighting chemicals. You drink two glasses of red wine, and you relax for the evening; you're not stressed out, and that helps you live longer. I think pot use, for many people, is a similar mechanism.

What are the other major obstacles to better research in this field? With so many interesting areas to explore, why are researchers reluctant to delve into marijuana and other illegal drugs?

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Lots of stoners know that there are cannabinoid receptors in the brain. Jonah Lehrer knows what they look like.

'Unfortunately, I don't think that brain science can help us deal with shitty public policy.'

ence can help us deal with shitty public policy. One thing it can help us do, however, is better understand which drugs you should really crack down on. I mean, I happen to be pretty libertarian in my views, and I don't think they should crack down heavily on any kind of drug, but you could build a public-policy case for

about not being taken seriously as a scientist. I think a big part, too, is that it's so tough to get funding from places like the National Institutes of Health, especially if your drug research doesn't follow what the government wants to hear. There's not any grand conspiracy or anything, but, for example, a couple years ago, the newspapers ran big headlines on how Ecstasy destroys your brain. It turned out that a lot of that research was very badly done: It was done on monkeys, and the guy miscalculated his doses, but it was what people [in the government] wanted to hear—and so he got tons of funding for it. And I sometimes wonder: What if he hadn't gotten those results? What if subsequent work in trying to verify those results found that they were not only badly reported, but also completely wrong? Would he have gotten all that funding if he hadn't generated misleading data?

Having talked to scientists about it, I think it's also just the sheer paperwork—it's so much more work to get illegal stuff into your lab. You have to have a full-time person who is dedicated to just controlling the substances, to locking them up ... it's a headache.

Is marijuana addictive?

All the evidence suggests that pot isn't addictive, that for whatever reason pot doesn't activate the dopamine reward path in your brain in the same way nicotine does—or opiates, heroin, amphetamines, coke ... all those drugs.

What's your take on the gateway theory?

It's really just ridiculous. Unfortunately, I don't think that brain sci-

classifying drugs that are very addictive differently than drugs that aren't as addictive.

You mentioned having libertarian views on this—would you like to see the decriminalization of drugs in general?

That's a complicated question that I just frankly don't know enough about to have an opinion. I think we should absolutely decriminalize marijuana—I think the fact that we haven't decriminalized it already, in spite of all this evidence, is really just a testament to the lack of wisdom on the part of our leaders. The fact that this drug has been stigmatized for all sorts of erroneous reasons ... I happen to think the War on Drugs has been an epic failure, a total disaster for so many reasons, especially as it relates to marijuana. It is just so ass-backwards and such a travesty that it's hard to know where to begin.

Okay, last question: Tell me about the first time you smoked pot, please.

It was at one of my first Bob Dylan shows in like '97, in support of the *Time Out of Mind* album. He was playing at the El Rey [in Los Angeles], a very small theater, and it was one of the best shows I've ever been to. There were around 800 people, and Dylan was just rediscovering his talent. I was standing next to this old hippie guy—I was just a teenager—and he's like, "Here, it'll sound much better with this." And I was like, "Whoa!" [Laughing] He was right, and he was *right!* He was just kind of this very friendly guy, though I had no idea what his name was—the two of us had so clearly bonded in line because we both were Bob Dylan freaks. ✨

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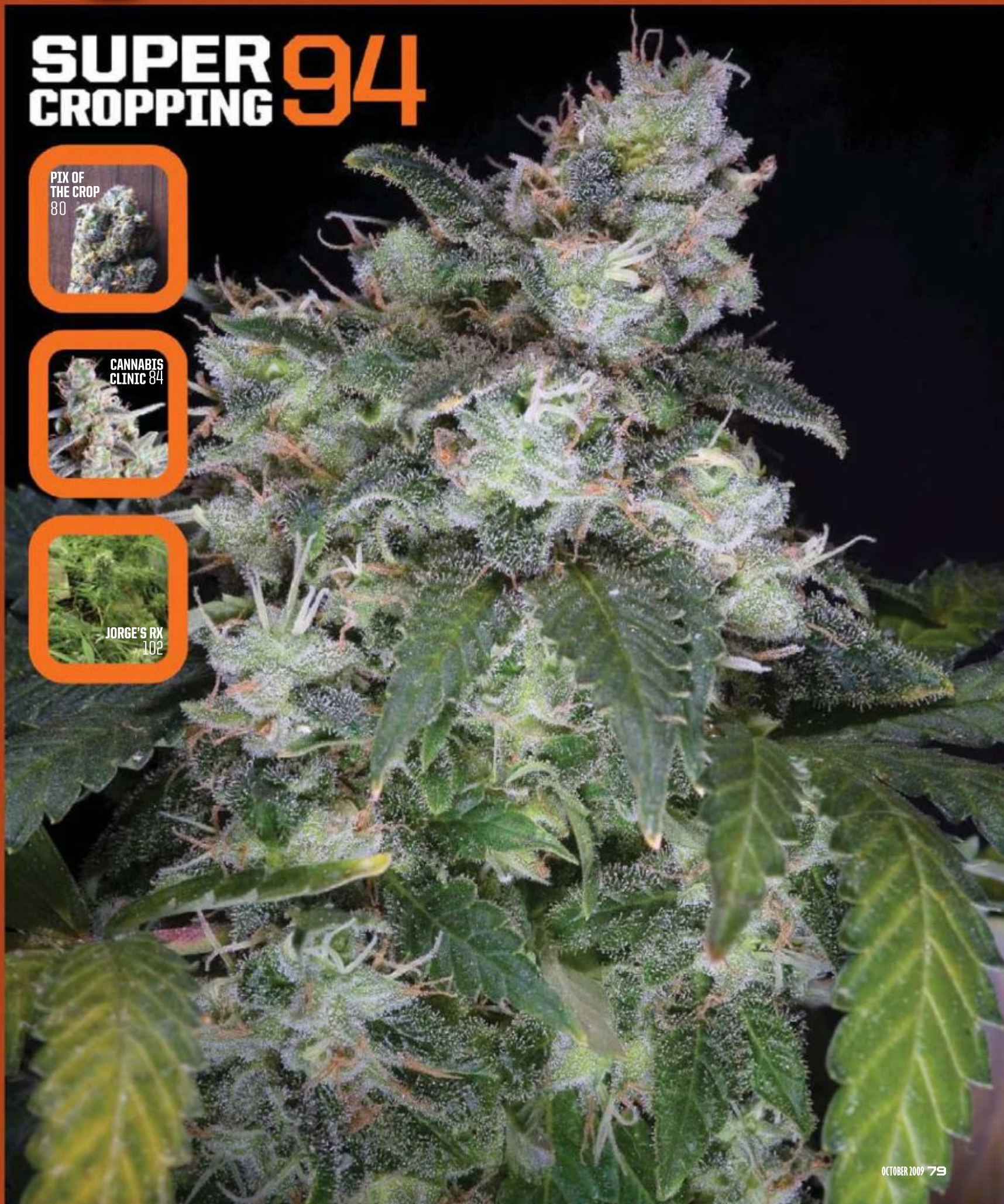
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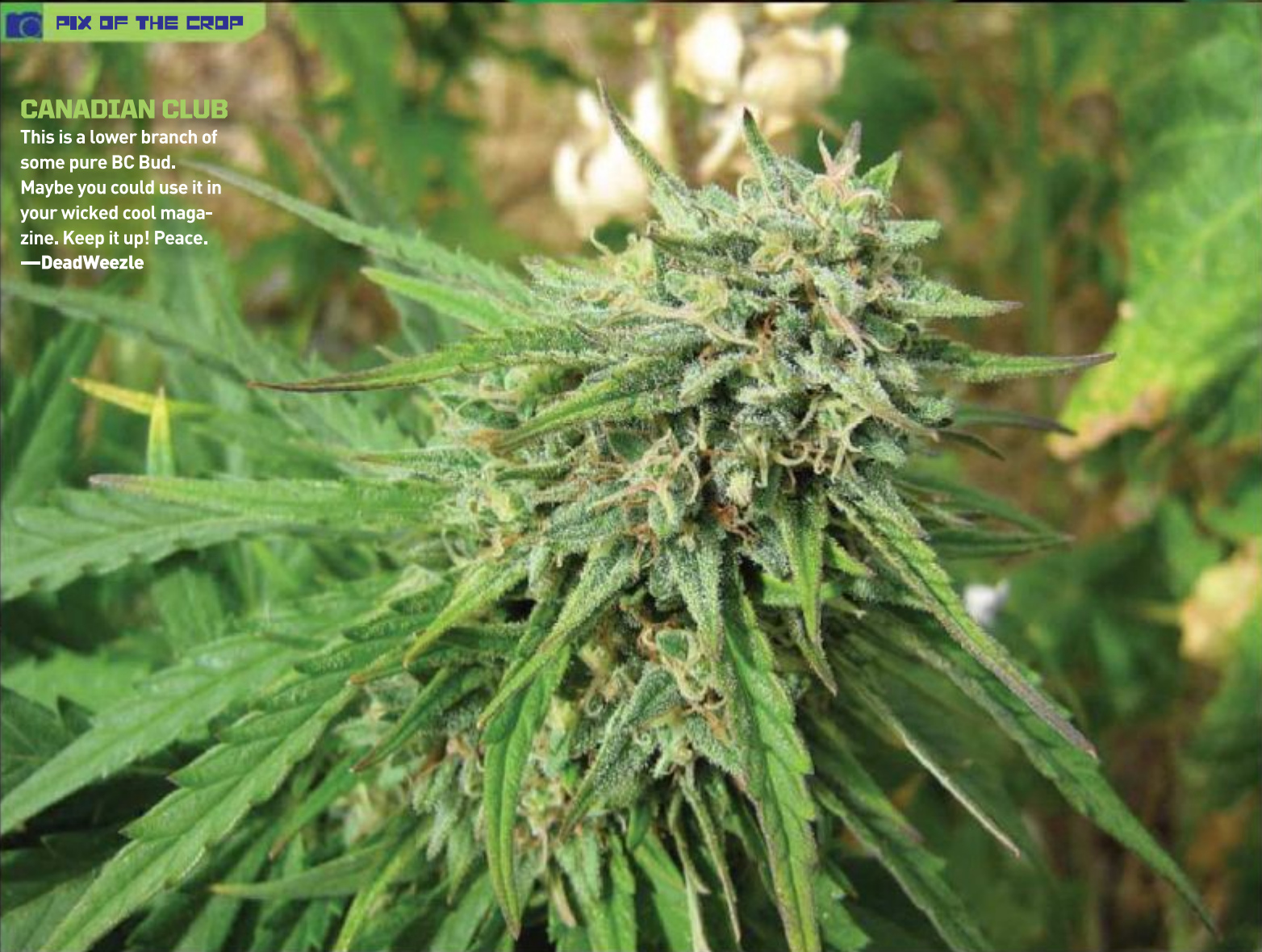


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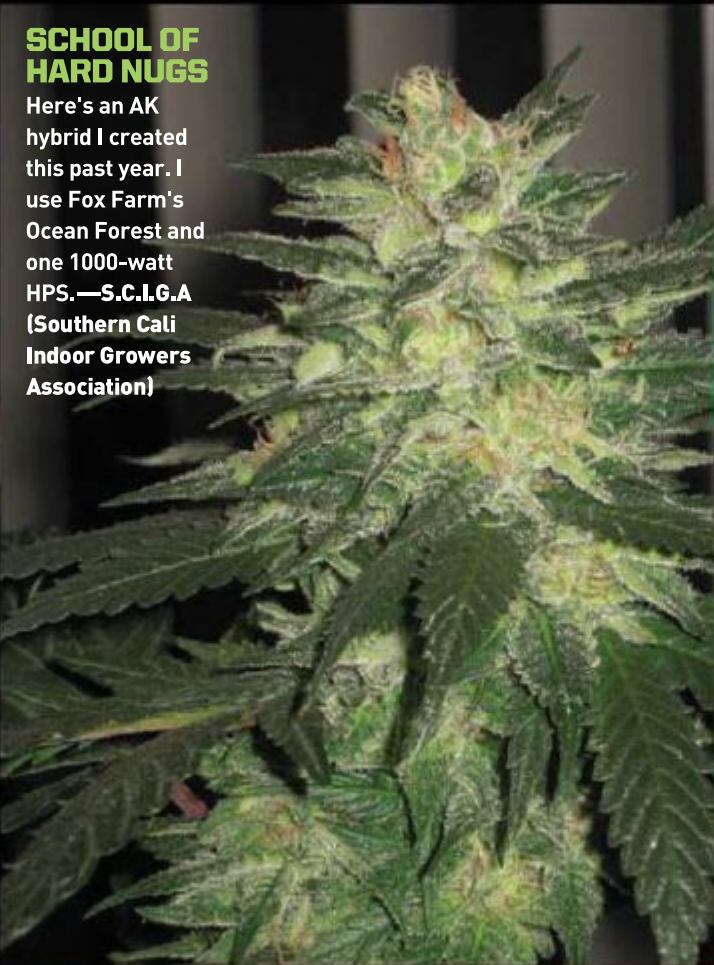
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—DeadWeezle



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Here's an AK hybrid I created this past year. I use Fox Farm's Ocean Forest and one 1000-watt HPS.—S.C.I.G.A (Southern Cali Indoor Growers Association)



PACIFIC NORTH BEST

Here's a pic of my medical beauty. This Oregon Purps was grown outdoors in the great Washington forest this past summer. She grew five feet tall and gave me four very nice ounces. Keep up the great work!—Sticky Green K-Ous

CLIPPED TIPS

Thanks for all the great information! Couldn't do it without you.

—Marty





HEDGE FUND
My medicinal gardens.—Dean



HASH BASH
Here's some primo bubblehash made by the DeadBrokeCrew. Five-gallon Bubblebags and lots of hours mixing, we ending up pulling six ounces of primo hashish.—DBC



GRAPE APES
Here are some photos I took.—Konfusion

Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nugs. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to maibag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.

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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our latest mini-section, devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your new *Cannabis Clinic!*

For the Record...

There's been a lot of press coverage as of late regarding medical marijuana. With the Obama administration pulling in the reins of the DEA, states are enjoying their right to pass voter-driven initiatives, and more and more patients are finally getting their medicine hassle-free.

However, despite all the coverage, most media outlets have been slipping in their reports, failing to correctly identify the growing number of states that have actually passed medical-marijuana legislation. For the record, the number is currently at 14 (as verified by norml.org). They are: Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, Michigan, Vermont, Maryland, Rhode Island and Maine.

The Next Three

With that said, it should be mentioned that there are now quite a few states whose legislatures have bills pending that would allow medical use. Among these states, New Jersey, New York and Minnesota are extremely close to passage.

Unfortunately, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has already stated that he would veto the measure, which has taken nearly a decade to pass in the state's Senate and House. Conversely, New York is inching ever so close to enacting its own medical-marijuana law, with the bill recently passing out of the Senate Health Committee. It still has to go through the Senate Codes Committee before getting to the floor for a vote. If passed, seriously ill patients would be able to possess up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana and 12 mature plants.

This is the first year that the bill has a real chance of passing both the Assembly and Senate. The Democrat-controlled Assembly has

Sweet taste, spacey high: Nebula is out of this world.



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NEBULA

What's in a name? Well, if the name is Nebula (meaning "star cloud"), there's a lot. First, the strain resembles a cloud of stars, with its layers of crystal trichomes covering the leafy buds. And then there's the connotation of "space"—hardly ironic, as Nebula has been known to produce some very spacey highs.

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passed similar bills before, only to see them defeated in the Republican-controlled Senate. In the 2008 elections, the Democrats won both houses, for the first time since 1965. Recently, however, the Republicans staged a parliamentary coup to regain control of the Senate. How

effective the coup will prove to be, and how it affects the medical-marijuana bill's chances, are difficult to gauge as we go to press. If both the Senate and Assembly do manage to pass it, however, the bill will go to the governor's desk for his signature—and we all know that Gover-

nor David Patterson is an open-minded and intelligent individual, so it's *highly* unlikely that he would refuse to sign it.

And then there's New Jersey—a newcomer to the race, but only inches away from completion! The bill to allow medicinal use for seriously ill patients has been tightened, and an amended version that was approved by the Senate cleared the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee by a vote of 8 to 1. Next, Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts Jr. will determine whether to post the bill for a floor vote in the Assembly. If the amended bill succeeds there, it would return to the Senate for a second vote because of the changes. New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine has already promised that he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk.

Rhode Island Clears 9-Year-Old for Medical Marijuana

Talk about a truly progressive state (and parents, for that matter). In an act of unparalleled compassion and thoughtfulness, Rhode Island and the parents of a 9-year-old autistic boy are allowing the use of medical marijuana to treat his painful symptoms.

With tolerances easily built up to synthetic drugs—not to mention the unknown long-term effects of potent pharmaceuticals like Risperdal and Thorazine—the team of doctors treating the child decided to go in a new direction. At first they prescribed Marinol—but since Marinol is another synthetic drug that isolates only one of the 60-some known cannabinoids in cannabis, its effects aren't nearly the same as using the whole plant. It was only after the boy began eating foods treated with cannabis that his symptoms began to subside and progress was seen in his mood and behavior.

Imagine—in a country where people go to jail daily for buying, selling, possessing or growing marijuana, there is a 9-year-old boy whose life has become that much better by using it medicinally. If that isn't a sign of things to come, then what is?

To read the whole compelling story, go to doublex.com/section/health-science/why-i-give-my-9-year-old-pot, and then spread the word to those who still doubt. 🌿

Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.

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- 1. "The Look"** - You want to make sure your cabinet looks like one, not like a futuristic time machine with controls on the front. Make sure it is 100% light tight, 16 gauge "Cool-Running" metal, and looks like it belongs in your house.
- 2. Dimensions** - Be aware of misleading pictures. Realize that 24 inch deep cabs grow 33% more than generic 18 inch deep ones. The major factor of how much you grow is by Height, Width, AND Depth of your cabinet.
- 3. Airflow** - Lights are PROPERLY air-cooled by bringing air in from outside the chamber, then pushed out as well. Some only bring air from inside the unit itself, then through the light. You do not want this. Also, make sure your cab is "Cross Corner Ventilated" AND has an adjustable internal circulation fan. The output air should go out through a professionally made carbon filter.
- 4. Ease and Expertise** - Make sure your system is user friendly and the company knows what they are talking about. Your cabinet should come and look professionally assembled, automated, and easy to grow.
- 5. Net trellis and adjustable lights-** you grow up to 50% more when using a net trellis. A bonus is if both the light and veg. chamber is adjustable to allow for maximum height and lumen intensity.
- 6. Comes with Everything-** Let them shop for you. You want every possible thing you need to start growing the day you get it, including an automated Cloning Machine, nutrients, DVD, TDS meter, PH kit, Make sure it is fully assembled, automated, and ready to grow with ease and confidence.
- 7. Good Warranty-** Make sure the company backs your investment with at least a 3 year warranty and excellent lifetime customer support - for free.
- 8. Made in USA** - That is if you are in the US. For obvious reasons, such as supporting the economy, it also means not worrying with US Border Customs and such when dealing with your warranty and replaceable parts.
- 9. Customer Support-** Prompt phone and email service, knowledgeable support and replies. Accredited by the Better Business Bureau with little to no complaints over the past 3 years. Friendly and helpful is also a must.
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ON DMT AND DRUM FISH

Bonnaroo camp cooks build community with a pint of ganja oil. **By Ashley Boudreaux**

Maybe doing DMT at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival wasn't such a good idea after all. It *sounded* cool at first – instant hallucinatory bliss, where patterns danced upon the brightly shifting patterns, and then *bam*, a quick zip back to normalcy. Since I rarely have 12 hours to devote to tripping anymore, the idea of DMT was appealing.

Unfortunately, it tasted like a putrid combination of burning tires and leathery grape skins, and the method of delivery (a clear glass pipe) looked sketchy at best, eliciting irritated glances from passersby, who undoubtedly assumed I was smoking meth or something equally sinister. I've come to the conclusion that DMT is to hallucinogens what King Cobra is to alcohol – it'll do the job, but it's ghetto as fuck and it tastes like ass.

I should have just stuck with the ganja food.

I had very gently warmed and simmered up an ounce of weed in a pint of extra virgin olive oil for nine hours pre-Bonnaroo, because I'd been challenged to a cook-off at an intentional community called Hippie Hill. Unfortunately, the cook-off had to be rescheduled since the Parking Nazis at Bonnaroo had other ideas.

"Cut your wheel," screamed the uniformed collegiate tasked with ensuring that I was permanently trapped behind ten other cars for the entire weekend. I glared in refusal. "That's not cutting your wheel," she shrieked indignantly. Indeed. It was not. As tents unfurled in what might have once been my escape route, and an intense thunderstorm began to dump its contents on us, I realized I'd be on foot all weekend.

So I did what I had to do – I started cooking with the ganja oil and encouraging those around me to do the same. Our managing editor, Natasha, braved the deluge in the dark to find me later that night as I served up fat white shrimp and a beautiful whole fish called Drum, pulled fresh out of the Gulf of Mexico that very morning only to be poached in ganja oil and tomatoes and served over dirty rice. It was exquisitely odd to have such fresh seafood in a farmer's field in Tennessee, and it stoned six of us nicely.

The next morning, the scent of grilling meat lured me into a nearby camp where a fellow named Bob was turning out pork chop quesadillas on a flat grill. He was more than happy to trade some of his wares for ganja oil, and was accommodating enough to keep our camp well-fed all weekend with the loaded vittles. First, he'd pour a tablespoon or two of the oil onto the

Fresh fish in a farmer's field.



grill and sauté the pork strips, then he'd add them to a tortilla full of cheese, grilled onions and salsa, and then finally return the entire quesadilla to the grill, where the tortilla would immediately soak up any remaining oil while crisping. Adding a dollop of sour cream after cooking made the entire concoction damned near perfect, and the simplicity of the dish was refreshing.

The folks parked behind us decided to toss pasta and grilled veggies in the oil with dried basil and parmesan cheese. Someone else suggested scrambling eggs with it. It reminded me of a story about stone soup. A young girl in a very poor family complained to her mother about being hungry. Her mother instructed her to fetch a stone and some water to make soup. Puzzled, the girl did what she was told, and then asked her mother how on earth it would be filling. Shouldn't they add some carrots? Her mother agreed and suggested that she ask the neighbor for some carrots to add to the soup. The neighbor obliged, and said that it would taste even better with a potato from the old man down the road. Anyway, the girl basically gathers one thing from each person around her, they make a huge pot of soup and all declare that it was the best soup they'd ever had, marveling at how much better the stone made it taste.

And that's what we had at Bonnaroo – Stoned Soup. Since none of us could actually drive to the store for supplies, we did the best they could with what was on hand, we collaborated and we had a good time. And that's really the moral of this story: take what you have (unless it's DMT), work together, and get creative. There are very few wrong choices in life and in ganja oil – there are only new experiences, the people we share them with, and the things we all learn along the way.

Bonnarooooooooooooooo! ✨

SEXY STONED FISH

¼ cup ganja oil
One 15-ounce can of diced tomatoes and chiles (three or four large tomatoes and fresh basil would've been better, but we didn't think about it until after we were stuck)

One Big Sexy Fresh Fish, cleaned and scaled
One pound of shrimp
3 ¼ cups of water
1 ½ cups of long grain rice
¼ cup diced onion
¼ cup diced bell pepper
2 tablespoons of minced garlic
Paprika, salt, pepper and soy sauce to taste

Sauté the seafood in tomatoes and oil until completely cooked. Meanwhile, add all other ingredients to boiling water. Return to boil, and then simmer for 25 minutes or until rice is cooked. Mix sauce into rice and serve seafood over it.

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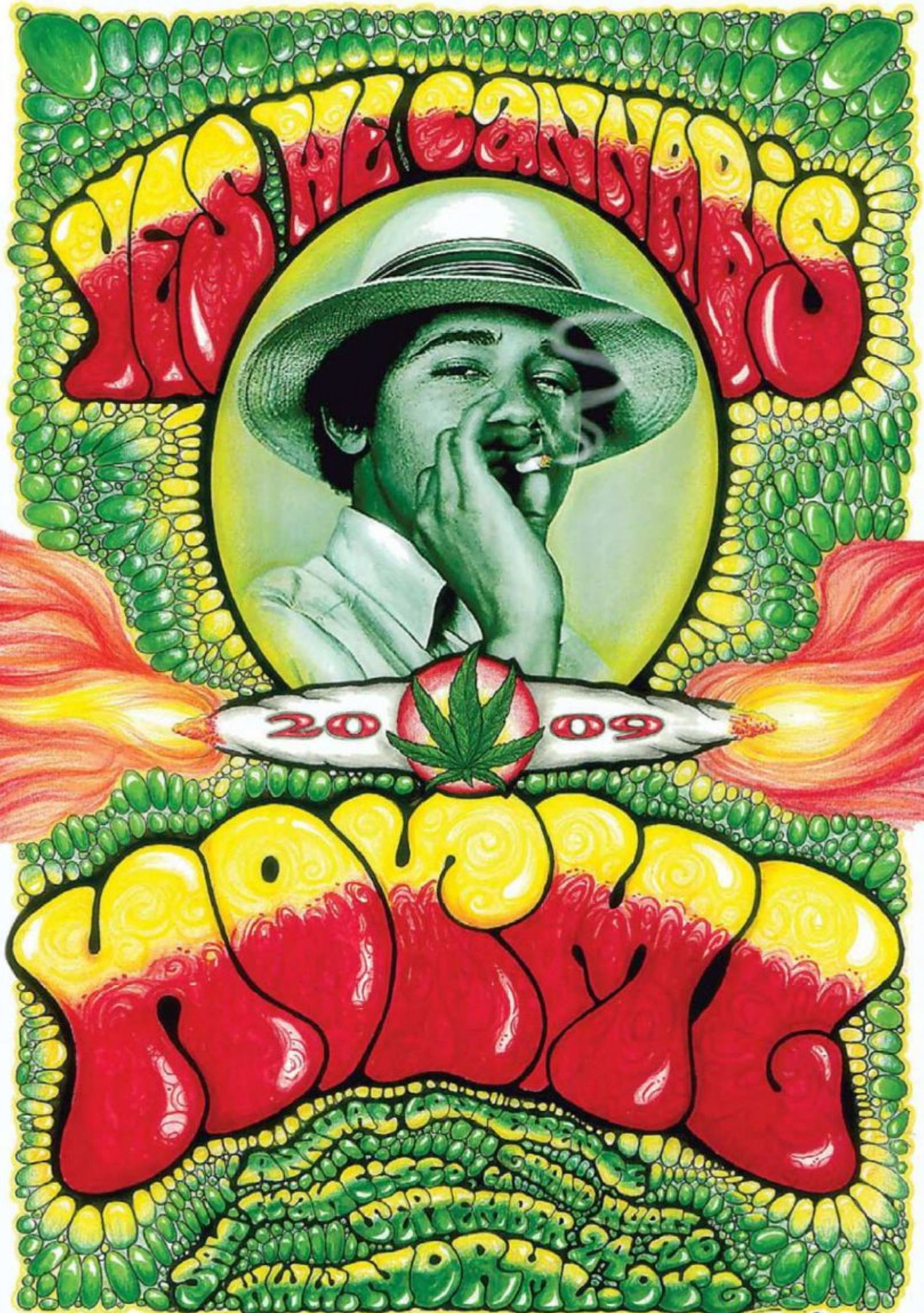
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DECRIMINALIZE IT!

And don't criticize it ... even though we'd much rather legalize it—once and for all! By Allen St. Pierre

Lest there be any confusion, NORML strongly favors marijuana legalization over decriminalization. Period.

Unfortunately, the American public and our elected lawmakers have yet to provide majority support for the concept of legalizing the responsible adult use of cannabis. Instructively, an eye-popping 73 percent of Americans surveyed support *decriminalizing* cannabis, while only 42 percent support outright legalization.

As popular as the legalization issue may be on America's West Coast—particularly in the Golden State—California State Assemblyman Tommy Ammi-ano's pro-legalization bill has failed to attract a single co-sponsor. Once again, the citizens are way ahead of their elected policymakers—and so, while we build support for the ultimate goal of legalization, it's also important to support efforts at decriminalization like HR 2943, the Act to Remove Federal Penalties for the Personal Use of Marijuana by Responsible Adults, reintroduced in Congress this June by co-sponsors Barney Frank (D-MA) and Ron Paul (R-TX).

If passed, HR 2943 would eliminate federal penalties for the personal possession of up to 100 grams (over 3.5 ounces) of cannabis, as well as the not-for-profit transfer of up to one ounce—making prosecution (if any) for these acts strictly a state matter.

Under existing federal law, defendants found guilty of possessing small amounts of cannabis for personal use face up to one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

Currently, 13 states with a combined population



Barney Frank and Ron Paul at the NORML Capitol Hill press conference.

of over 115 million citizens, have decriminalized the possession of small amounts of cannabis. In 2007, over 872,000 citizens nationwide were arrested on cannabis-related charges, 90 percent of them for possession only. Thankfully, many hundreds of thousands of our brethren who live in decriminalized states face a fine-only citation—and are usually on their way after their police encounter—rather than being

dragged off to America's drug gulags.

Passage of HR 2943 would provide state lawmakers the choice to maintain their current penalties for minor marijuana offenses or eliminate them completely. Lawmakers would also have the option to explore various legal alternatives for taxing and regulating the adult use and distribution of cannabis free from federal interference. So while such a national decriminalization policy would fail to address the major failings of prohibition—namely the economic costs of enforcement, including keeping a massive law-enforcement structure in place; the loss of sales taxes and licensing fees; the ongoing destabilization of international borders; and potency and adulteration issues—it's still far better than our current system, and a significant step toward further reform in the future.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML in Washington, DC. For more information about state cannabis laws and lobbying Congress in favor of HR 2943, go to www.norml.org.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

REP. STEVE COHEN: Our man in Washington. by Russ Belville

Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN) joins Rep. Barney Frank as only the second politician to be named NORML's Freedom Fighter of the Month in our 19 years of awarding this high honor. Rep. Cohen wins for his defense of truth in the face of the standard Washington "reefer madness." While questioning FBI Director Robert Mueller in May about drug-prohibition-fueled violence in Mexico, Cohen brilliantly shot down Mueller's tired talking points one by one (go to <http://tr.im/cohen> for the video).

When Mueller tried to defend the War on Drugs by saying he's seen "some successes" in reducing drug use, Cohen fired back: "Do you have any statistics to show? Statistics I see say that more people are using, say, marijuana" He then asked if there was a better way, "a system of legalization, that might be effective in stemming the tide of drugs from Mexico Have you considered this as a possibility?"

Mueller tried to skate past the question by explaining his personal theory that drug use happens in "waves," before adding that he could never support legalization because "there are too many individuals, both parents and others, who have lost their lives to drugs." Cohen fired back: "Name me a couple of parents who've lost their lives to marijuana?"—to which Mueller responded with one word: "Can't."

Mueller's last gasp was to invoke all the children who have overdosed on other drugs, children who "inevitably started with marijuana." Cohen's response is one that we at NORML never expected to hear from a Congressman from Tennessee: "They probably started off with milk and then went to beer, and then they went to bourbon, and then they might have gone to marijuana. *The gateway theory doesn't work—it's a reality.*"

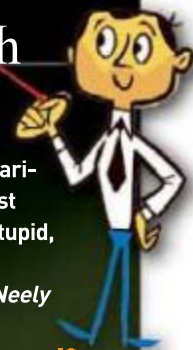
We usually reserve our Freedom Fighter of the Month award for citizen activists working to end marijuana prohibition. For Rep. Cohen's brave insistence that the emperor wears no clothes, we'll gladly make an exception.

Russ Belville is NORML's National Outreach Coordinator and podcast host. Go to www.stash.norml.org.



Congressman Steve Cohen

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch,
My brother, the cop, believes that not only does smoking marijuana make you stupid, but just *thinking* about it makes you stupid, too. Help me out.

JJ Neely

Your brother is confused:
There's no link whatever between IQ and marijuana use in adults. He may be thinking of a recent study in which people looked at HIGH TIMES covers, then did math problems more slowly—but just one second slower. By the way, that only happened with people who already believed that marijuana was bad.

Give your brother my thanks for protecting society.

I'm a bodybuilder. Can smoking pot help me put on the pounds?

Lou Hulkz

Although THC is great for enhancing appetite, it'll only help you increase muscle mass if your munchies of choice comprise lean sources of protein and other healthy foods.

Can marijuana help people kick heroin?

William Lee

Hi William,
It's complicated. Many people who've kicked heroin say yes. Recent studies show that folks with heroin problems were more likely to stick to a helpful medication like Naltrexone if they used marijuana once in awhile than if they used it often or never at all. So marijuana seems to have helped—but the person who can use it only occasionally and not all the time may also be the sort of person who can stick with his medication faithfully in the first place.

I'm arguing with someone who says that emergency-room visits caused by pot use are on the rise; therefore, it must remain illegal. How do I respond?

Dr. Kildare

Hi Doc,
Basketball is associated with an even larger number of emergency-room visits—let's make that illegal, too. Seriously, given the population of the United States and the number of people who use cannabis regularly, the total number of marijuana-related emergency-room visits is infinitesimal.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

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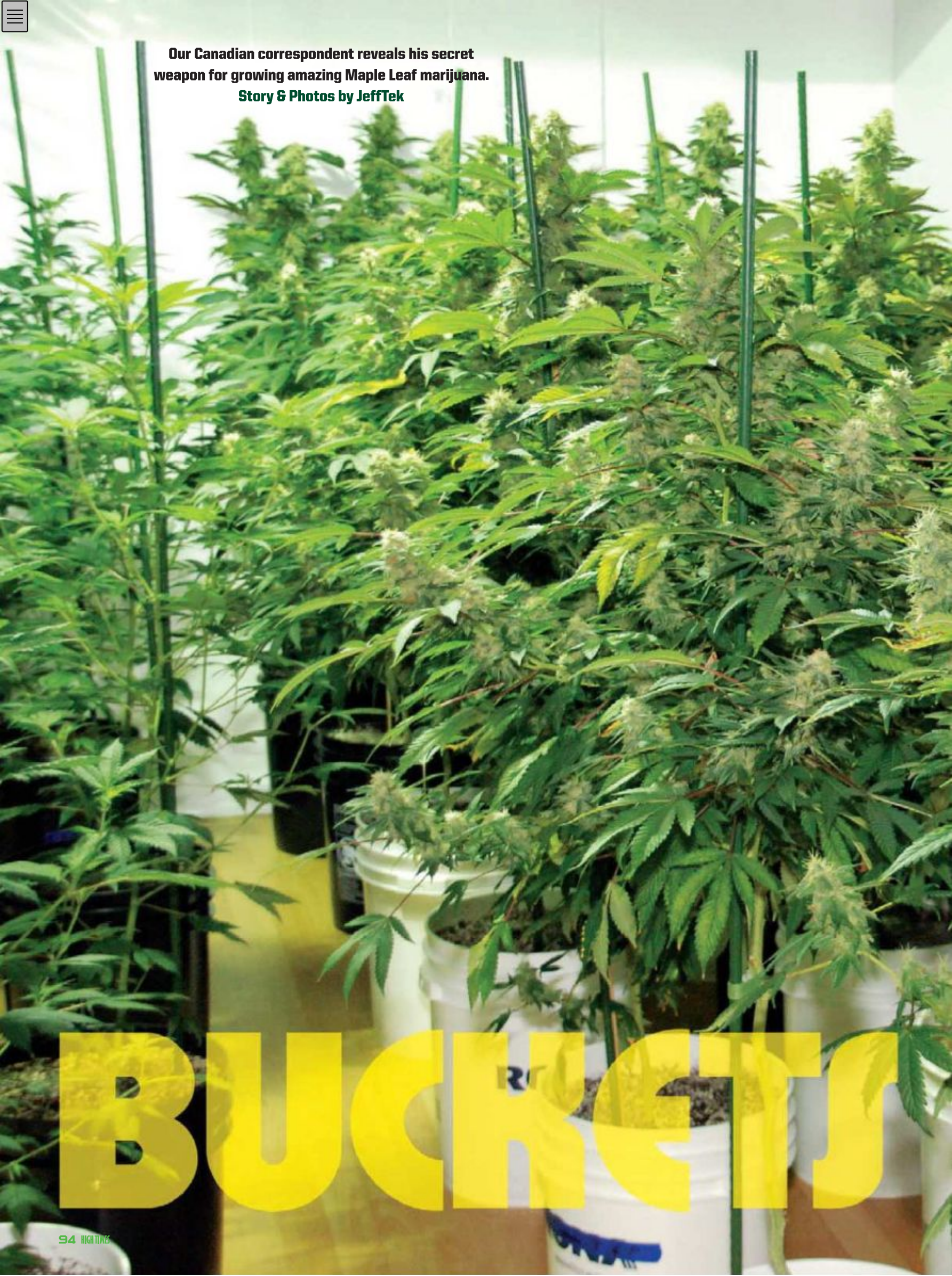
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**Our Canadian correspondent reveals his secret
weapon for growing amazing Maple Leaf marijuana.
Story & Photos by JeffTek**



BUCKETS

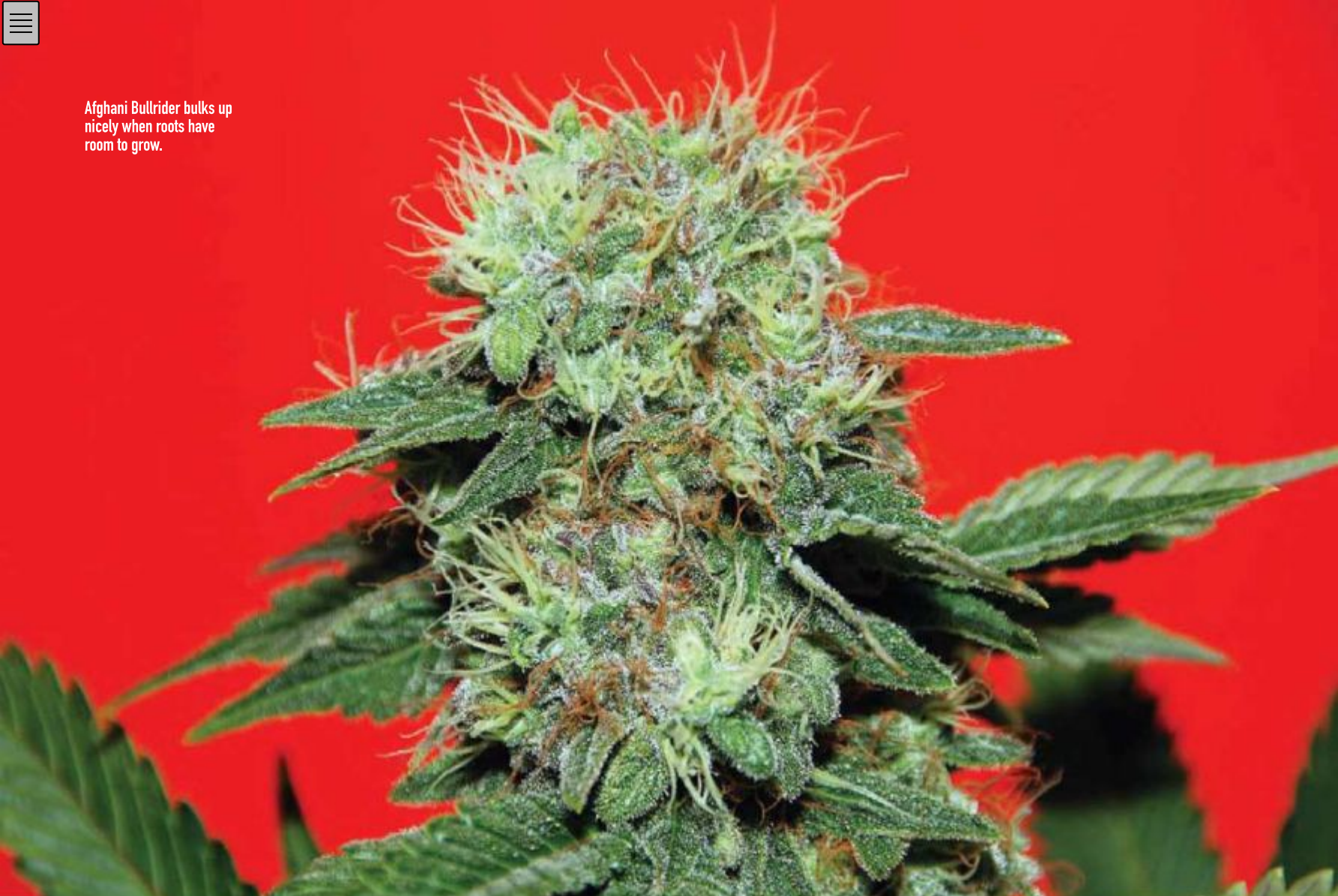


Canadians know how to construct a simple, productive growroom, which partly explains why I've fit in so well here since moving to British Columbia five years ago. Coming from a mechanical background, I know that complexity leads to bottlenecks and delays. And while innovation certainly has its place, in the long run, keeping things simple, practical and repeatable is the only way to harvest successfully, time after time, with increasing yields and efficiency—and zero downtime.

Using buckets allows the grower to move plants to the perfect positions under the light.

OF BUDS

Afghani Bullrider bulks up nicely when roots have room to grow.



Case in point: 5-gallon buckets—hands down and no holds barred, these are the best investment you'll ever make. You've had pickles from McBurgers that came from them, and you've prolly used tons of them for painting and drywalling. They won't bust, rust or collect dust. Personally, I use my incredibly versatile 5-gallon buckets for mixing nutrients, as hydro-tray stands, as organizers, and—with a couple of straps screwed to the bottoms—as great "bucket stilts" for reaching average ceilings with ease when running overhead electric or ad-

Use stakes to keep plants upright and taking in the optimum amount of light.



justing light chains. I've even seen them used as a pretty good replacement for snare drums!

Of course, growing marijuana in Canada is still illegal, but, with over 3,000 medicinally exempted users licensed by Health Canada, the grow scene is healthy and thriving. In my time here, I've had the opportunity to investigate many, many grow ops and learn the growroom secrets of some of the most skilled cultivators of Canadian cannabis. And while nothing can replace the process of trial and error in your own indoor garden, I've been compelled by my insistent HIGH TIMES editor to distill some of the weed wisdom I've acquired over the years from my fellow Maple Leaf marijuana growers and offer it to you in 10 simple steps for success. Remember, patience yields expertise, and expertise yields confidence—and nothing beats confidently harvesting batch after batch of the sticky-icky, on time and on budget.

And it all starts—you guessed it—with a 5-gallon bucket.

STEP 1: Go to the hard-“where” store (as in “Where is this? Where is that?”). Purchase your 5-gallon plastic paint pails, approximately four to six for each 1,000-watt lamp.

STEP 2: Go to the nursery or *another* hardware store and purchase a 3.8-cubic-foot bale of Sunshine Mix #4 or Pro-Mix HP. Never buy your buckets, dirt and fertilizer at the same joint, for obvious reasons. Each bale will fill 18 to 20 of the 5-gallon buckets.



Clean grow areas are less likely to develop problems.

STEP 3: Go to the hydroponics store and buy some good organic “Grow” and “Bloom” food. I like the new line of OMRI-certified granular nutrients from Botanicare called Organicare. They are 100% organic and really work nicely when mixed with the soilless mixes mentioned above. They also have 100% organic supplemental liquid additives and concoctions called Huvega, Seaplex, Humega, Calplex and Nitrex that provide every conceivable micro and macro, humic/fulvic sea/land/air nutrient your plants could ever ask for.

STEP 4: Move your new 5-gallon buckets into the growroom and fill them with your planting mix. If you're using Organicare Pure, simply add 5 dry ounces of the organic granules into 5 gallons of soil. (This can be done in bulk in a cement mixer for larger applications.) Then transplant your rooted clones (or plant your seeds) directly into the center of the 5-gallon bucket. Immediately after transplanting, water in your rooted clones (or seeds) with either plain water or the above-mentioned liquid additives.



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These monsters were vegged under 24 hours of fluorescent and metal-halide light for six weeks before being lollipopped, staked, fertilized and sprinkled with a little diatomaceous earth to prevent gnats. Then they were given 5 ounces of "Bloom" nutes and watered in with the full line of Organicare goodies (minus the Nitrex after budding, of course). For the last three weeks, they received nothing but reverse-osmosis water. They finished around week eight of flowering, as usual. The great taste, great aroma and wonderful light-gray ash tell me that all is well and good with my Afghani Bull-rider medicine, now totally organic.

STEP 5: Vegetate your plants under 18 to 24 hours of light for a few weeks, or until they grow tall enough for flowering based on the height of your growroom and lights. Then remove the lowest three or four branches. These lower branches won't ever get enough light to properly bud, but they will make great clones for the next garden cycle. Plus, this "lollipopping" process makes watering and general maintenance much, much simpler.

STEP 6: Oh, shit, you've just had a setback! Your current batch of budding plants needs an extra week, which has caused your vegetative plants to grow too tall and unruly. Okay, relax—always think things through before taking any drastic action in your growroom. Never act out of haste or emotion How about simply chopping the tops of the plants to the desired height, then lollipopping and staking them?

STEP 7: Once the desired height has been reached, the clones have been taken, and the stakes have been placed, simply add 5 dry ounces of Organicare Pure "Bloom" pellets to the topsoil and water it in with plain water or the abovementioned liquid supplies, minus the Nitrex.

STEP 8: Place the ready-to-bud plants in the flowering room and give them 12 hours of light and 12 hours of absolute, uninterrupted darkness per day. *Do not break the dark cycle for any reason at all*—not to show your Uncle Jim or Cousin Sue, not to check and see if you left your copy of HIGH TIMES on top of the workbench, not for nothing! Just don't do it!

Also, give your plants approximately 1 gallon of water or water/additives immediately upon arrival in the flowering room. This should hold them for a week or more, but you need to check their



The view from above shows healthy vigorous growth.

moisture levels daily to be sure! Water again when the plant feels light—air bubbles will gurgle from below if done properly. Over time, you'll develop an instinctive feel for your plants' water needs. Keeping your system simple and consistent makes dialing in the proper amounts of water, nutrients, light and air much easier to manage.



This close-up reveals numerous sticky trichomes.

STEP 9: Harvest when the trichomes have just started to turn cloudy, or when more than half of the white hairs have turned a deep red. Then chop out a fist-sized chunk of root-ball from the center of the bucket—about 8 inches deep—and plant another rooted clone into the bucket. That's right: Recycle the soil twice this way before refilling with a completely fresh mix. This stretches your dirt dollar, and the roots from previous harvests will support the tender roots of new plants nicely, without compacting! I've done this over and over. (Check out my video "Recycled Roots" on YouTube to see more.)

NOTE: If there are any imbalances or bug/mold infestations, *do not* reuse the soil this way. Instead, clean your buckets with bleach and water and then refill them with fresh soil.

STEP 10: Whew, you've made it! The final step is easy: Enjoy the fruits of your labor. "Smoke 'em if you got 'em," as my old drill sergeant and a certain Blues Brother liked to say Oh, yeah—and keep the cycle going so you can continue to harvest amazing homegrown ganja every eight to 12 weeks with confidence and consistency. ✨

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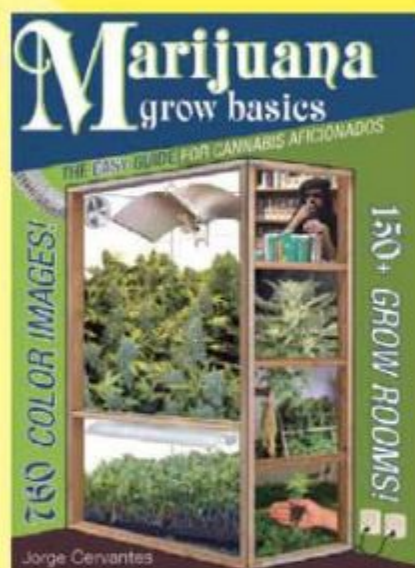
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NUTRIENTS

I need to know what fertilizer you recommend. What are the nutrients and supplements that are most important to grow the best crop?

*Bob
Via Internet*

Dear Bob,

The market is full of fertilizers with all kinds of catchy names that make you want to buy them. Most of them are pretty good and will grow a good crop. The trick is to look at the “Guaranteed Analysis” on the package. You should see a list of macro- and micronutrients: nitrogen (N), potassium (P), phosphorus (K), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca), sulfur (S), zinc (Zn), manganese (Mn), iron (Fe), boron (B), copper (Cu), and molybdenum (Mb).

Mineral salts make up chemical-based fertilizers. Organic nutrients or fertilizers contain the same elements, but in organic form, which means they have not been altered by heat or other processes (though some organic nutrients, like “steamed” bone meal, have been steamed and rendered). Nutrients also come in different grades of purity. Premium fertilizers, both organic and chemical-based, are always the best choice. Such nutrients use high-quality, food-grade ingredients and can guarantee the contents. Fertilizers that cannot provide a complete

guaranteed analysis of the nutrients listed above are not recommended.

The input water used will make a big difference in your fertilizers. For example, water that contains more than 50 ppm (parts per million) of sodium will keep other nutrients from being taken in by plant roots. Also, if the overall content of dissolved solids in the water is above 300 ppm, it should be treated with reverse osmosis to remove these unwanted fertilizer or mineral salts. The mineral salts will alter the content of the nutrients.

Ask the smartest, best-informed person you can find at your local hydroponics shop or garden center what kind of fertilizer to use for vegetative and flowering/fruited vegetables. Always buy the best premium fertilizer they recommend.

Many companies make a supplement called PK 13/14 that is added during flowering. Organic bat guano can also be added during flowering, but take care to not over-apply—even though the fertilizer is organic, it can be overdone. Finally, always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

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things to create a special smell I want? Or is it always a matter of the genetics in the plants?

*Doctor M.
Via Internet*

Dear Doctor M.,

You can spray different essential oils on buds to make them smell differently, but this is a cheap trick and doesn’t change the high. Cannabinoids are molecules that are only produced in cannabis. Also, there are up to 200 distinct essential oils or terpenes that are produced by the plant. Terpenes are complex molecules present in many other medicinal plants, and they also have aromatic properties. The cannabinoids and terpenes produced are a factor of the genetics of each cannabis plant. For each molecule of a terpene to develop completely, the cannabis plant containing it must grow in the absolute best conditions and reach its full genetic potential. Cannabis plants that grow outdoors or in a greenhouse using a perfect mix of organic fertilizer will grow to their maximum potential and produce the best cannabinoids and essential oils. The unique mix of cannabinoids and terpenes is what gives each strain its distinct fragrance and flavor. It is exceptionally difficult to imitate this delicate balance of terpenes and cannabinoids in a growroom.

Cannabinoids, excluding THC, are not psychoactive when they are consumed individually.

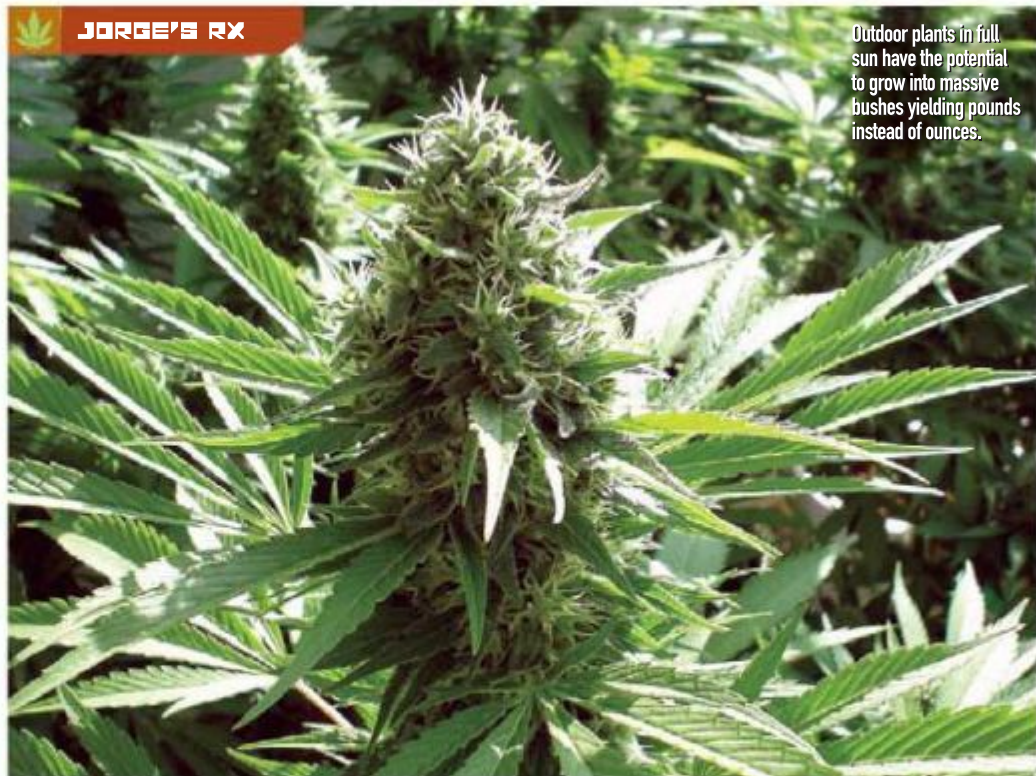


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Outdoor plants in full sun have the potential to grow into massive bushes yielding pounds instead of ounces.

However, cannabinoids do play a part in the way THC affects the consumer. When the cocktail of cannabinoids and terpenes changes, the effects of the THC will also change. A good example of this is when medical patients find relief for specific conditions from different strains. THC always has the same atomic structure and is the same in all cannabis plants. However, when the cannabinoids and terpenes change in the mix, the psychoactive effect is different.

three times the volume of water as the volume of soil. You should see results in a few days. But if this doesn't solve the problem, cut open the stem of the most wilted plant and check for fusarium. If fusarium is present, the inside of the stem will be full of a purplish, discolored pulp that disrupts the fluid flow. Solve the problem by destroying all the sick fusarium-affected plants and then use bleach to clean the growroom. Make sure to scrub down the entire room to keep the disease from spreading to the rest of the plants. In the worst-case scenario, remove and destroy all of the plants and start over.

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WILTED WOMEN!

I read somewhere that my plants will have more resin if I leave the lights off in the flowering room for 36 hours before they go into bloom. But at the end of 36 hours, I turned the lights on and many of the leaves on the plants were sagging. Why did this happen?

*Charlie C.
 Via Internet*

Dear Charlie,
 Sounds like you got it backwards: Most growers that adhere to this practice leave the lights off for 36 hours at the *end* of the flowering cycle. But the fact that so many plants wilted had nothing to do with the lights being off that long. There are many reasons that plants wilt: Lack of water or fluid flow within the plants is the first thing to look at. Usually, wilting is a result of a lack of water, or else the transport of fluid within the plant is blocked for some reason. One reason for lack of fluid flow could be the presence of the disease fusarium wilt, or an insect that burrows inside the stem and consequently interrupts the fluid flow. Another common reason is excess fertilizer buildup in the soil, which blocks the uptake of fertilizer and fluids within the plant. Another reason could be that the plants suffered humidity or temperature shock when the lights were turned off. This stress could manifest in the plants wilting.

Solutions to this problem include giving the plants water. Flush out all excess salts from the soil with a heavy leaching of fresh water. Pour in

CLOSET SETUP

I want to grow in my closet and set up a simple, basic growroom. I plan to line the room with aluminum foil and use two 75-watt lights. Is this the best way to do it? I want to start the seeds in a small plastic tray with a clear dome on top until they start to grow. I plan to grow in Pro-Mix soil-less potting mix so I don't have to check the pH of my water. When the plants start to grow, I'll transplant them into pots. Can you give me some growing tips?

*Bilbo
 Via Internet*

Dear Bilbo,
 The best tip I can give you is to start by reading a basic grow book, and also to do some research on the Internet to see how other growers set up their rooms. There are plenty of lights available that will grow plants, but some are much better than others. The old-fashioned household incandescent lights don't have the color spectrum or the efficiency to grow a healthy crop of plants. Some of the best lights to use can be found at discount home-improvement stores like Home Depot. Consider using two or three 65-watt compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). They are inexpensive—about \$30 each—and they will supply enough light to grow decent buds. Put up white plastic or paint the walls and ceiling of your growroom with white paint. Aluminum foil is not

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as efficient and tends to refract the light at oblique angles. It is also difficult to work with.

Start the seeds in a tray like you plan to do, but do *not* put a dome over them. Once the seeds break through the soil surface, they will stress out and die if the humidity that builds up under the dome is too high. Use good, clean water to irrigate the germinating seeds and seedlings. You may even want to splurge and purchase distilled water, which has no extra salts. Germinating seeds between moist paper towels is one of the best methods of achieving a 100% success rate. In 24 to 72 hours, you should see small white rootlets emerge from the seeds. Carefully remove the seeds from the moist paper towels and plant them about a quarter-inch deep in fine potting soil, then carefully cover them with the planting mix. Keep the soil surface evenly moist until the seedlings are about a month old. Begin fertilizing the seedlings with a mild, all-purpose, liquid-based fertilizer when they are two to three weeks old.

SMALL ROOM

I want to grow in a small 4' x 2' x 4' cabinet. What kind of light is best to use in this little room?

*The J-Man
Via Internet*

Dear J-Man,

You have only 4 vertical feet of grow area, which is very little space for plants to grow upwards. Low-profile T-5 or T-8 fluorescent tubes can be placed relatively close to the ceiling, and this will provide more space for the plants to grow beneath. However, even though the lights are fluorescents, they will produce heat. This means you should have an inch or two of space between the light reflectors and the ceiling to ensure that the roof of your enclosure doesn't get so hot that it will become a fire hazard. It would even be advisable to install a separate heat deflector to prevent overheating the ceiling. These lamps usually come with electronic ballasts that generate very little heat—but if possible, place the ballast outside the small growing area to reduce the heat and associated problems.

Use low-profile trays or growing containers on the floor to save on space; you should also consider using rockwool blocks or slabs. Grow low-profile, *indica*-dominant strains and bend them to fill your entire grow space.

HOT AIR AND CO₂

I have a question about fans and ventilation: Should I keep the vent fan on at all times (meaning at night, too)? I'm using a small exhaust fan to vent odors and circulate air, and I want to add CO₂—but won't the fan take out all the CO₂? When should I turn the fan off? The room already gets hot and my plants aren't growing too fast. Please help!

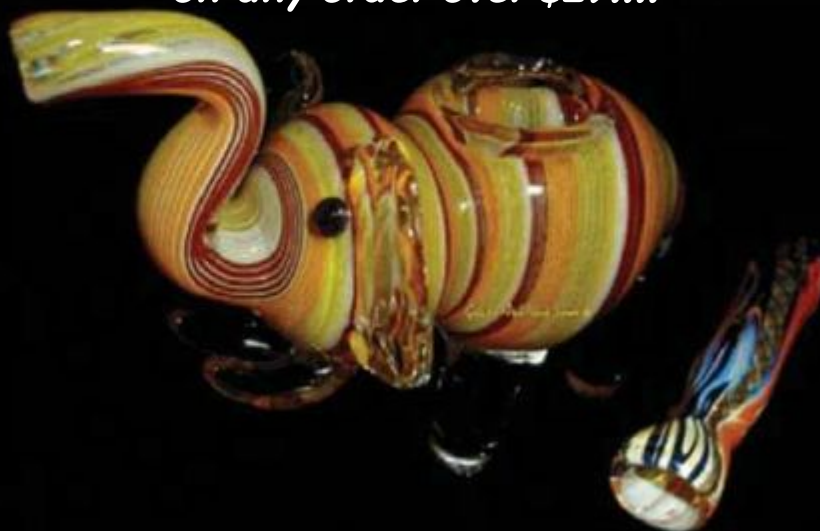
*Big D.
Via Internet*

Dear Big D.,

Improper circulation and ventilation of air, or a lack of fresh air, are the source of many problems that occur in a growroom. First, let's discuss air circulation. Air circulation is essential to keep the air from stratifying in a room. Hot air tends to rise and cool air tends to fall. A circulation fan keeps the air stirred up so that the temperature stays even throughout the room. It also keeps the air

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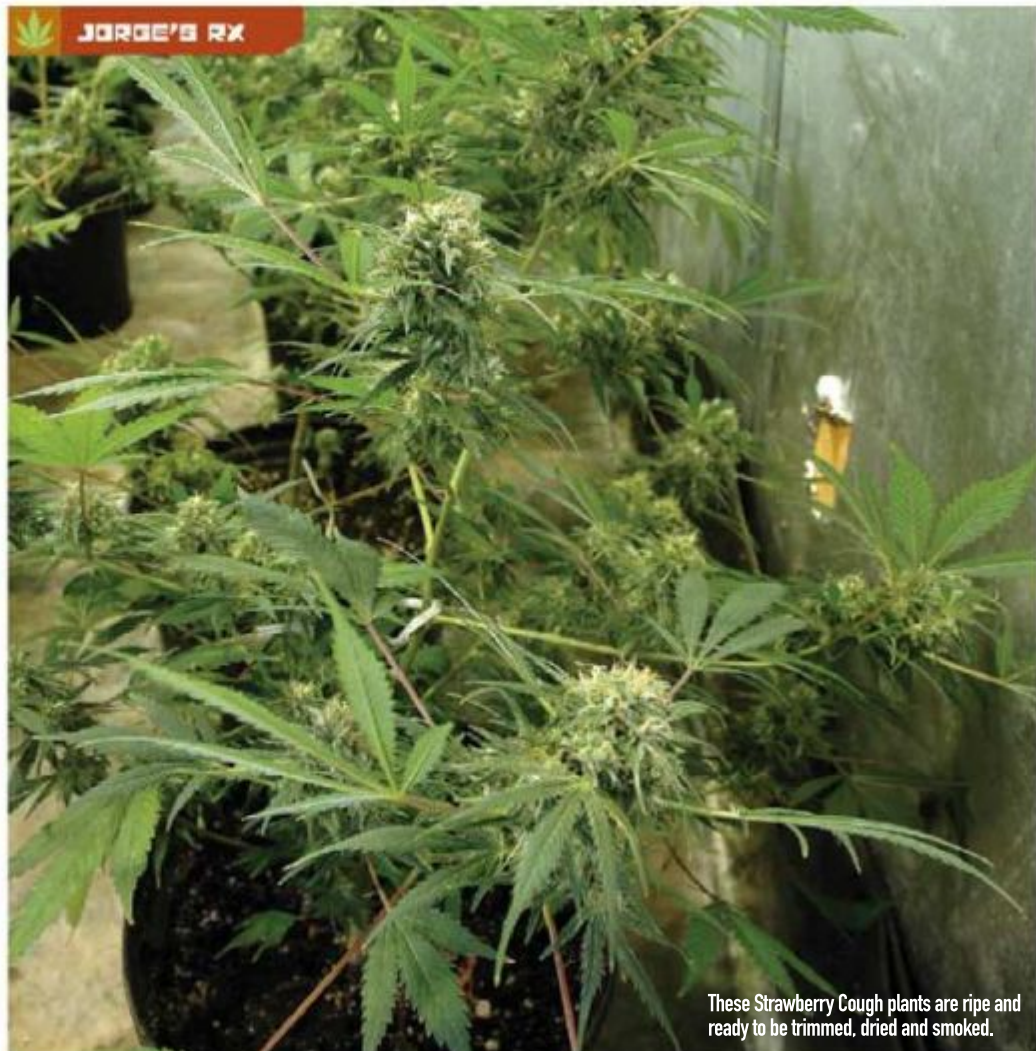
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stirred up around leaves, where the plants are using it. This is important because plants tend to use all the CO₂-rich air around their leaves quickly. If this air isn't circulated (i.e., replaced) regularly, the plants won't have enough CO₂ to grow. Your room needs more than a simple ventilation fan; it needs a circulation fan, too.

Stale, hot, humid, CO₂-depleted air is removed by the ventilation fan. The ideal temperature in the growroom is about 75°F during the day and 65°F to 70°F at night. Letting the temperature fall below 65°F will slow growth. Relative humidity should stay at about 50% percent in the flowering room and about 60% percent in the vegetative room. There are many good reasons to adhere to these temperature and humidity parameters. Often, the vent fan will need to be on up to 24 hours a day to keep the room within these parameters. Many times, it is not necessary to add CO₂ to the room to achieve the best growth. It is more important to control the temperature and humidity.

An accurate thermometer and hygrometer are necessary to measure the temperature and humidity in the room. It is also a good idea to measure the relative humidity and take several temperature readings both day and night. For example, when the lights go out at night, the temperature drops a few degrees, and this causes the humidity to climb several points. This is a common problem in virtually all growrooms. It is most common for the humidity levels to climb quickly for the first 30 to 60 minutes after the lights go out, even when there's a vent fan evacuating air. In a small growroom, the problem is less pronounced, but it occurs just the same. If

the humidity climbs super-fast when the lights go out and a single vent fan isn't enough to solve the problem, you may need to add another vent fan or use a larger fan to overcome the problem.

If you do decide to add CO₂ in the room, you will need to fine-tune the air ventilation even further in relation to the CO₂ you're generating and dispersing in the room. In small rooms, this is often more trouble than it's worth. Most small growers should concentrate on the basics and not get bogged down in too much technical stuff if they want to grow the best crop.

CO₂-enhanced environments require vigorous air circulation and an integrated ventilation regimen. If you're injecting bottled CO₂ into a small room, you have to vent the room per the manufacturer's instructions. In this case, the temperature can run as high as 85°F safely, and the humidity can climb to 60%.

GROWING WHERE THE SUN SHINES

I live in Southern California, where the sun shines even in winter. Can I put my vegetative plants outside now and get a harvest? Will they bud with 10 hours of sunlight?

*Calso
Via Internet*

Dear Calso,
Of course they will! Regular marijuana plants will flower as long as they receive at least 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness. They can also receive more hours of darkness and still flower. The trigger is 12 hours of darkness; it doesn't matter if the days are shorter and the nights longer, since the effect is the same.

Just remember that your plants will receive much less light, and the buds will grow much smaller, than if they were grown in the summer under more hours of intense sunlight. Sunlight is also much less intense in the winter because the sun is at a lower angle in the sky. The temperature will also be lower, which will make the plants grow more slowly. You can increase harvest weight by warming your plants, especially at night, by putting them under plastic or moving them indoors. Avoid putting them in a greenhouse during the day, because the glass- or plastic-covered greenhouse will allow less light to reach the plants. If you can keep the temperature above 55°F, they should be okay. Temperatures below 55°F will slow growth a lot.

Remember to “harden off” your plants before moving them outdoors from indoors. You harden off plants by setting them outdoors for a few hours each day until the foliage becomes acclimated to the harsher outdoor climate. You should be able to harvest in two to three months. Plants always take longer to harvest when there is less light and the temperatures are cool.

LOW YIELD

I'm on my fourth medical crop and growing an AK-47 cross that I made. It has a high THC content, and the yield is on the top end. I've been smoking it for a couple of weeks, and so far it doesn't blow me back like it should. The yield was also disappointing—about 2 to 3 ounces per plant. Also consider that they were growing under 2,000 watts of light in coco and CO₂ in a hydroponic system with the right fertilizer. They also took more than 70 days to finish. What can I do?

W.Z.

Via Internet

Dear W.Z.,

The lack of potency and yield began when you started “breeding.” My best guess is that the progeny seed from the cross you made wasn't as potent as the parents, or perhaps there was some other defect that accounts for the lackluster buzz from your personal genetics. The new breed is also taking longer to finish. There is plenty of light in your room, and the growing conditions appear to be adequate—you just lack good genetics. Get some good seeds or clones from the local medical dispensary. Grow the seeds or clones out into a good crop. If you're growing with seeds, grow them out and make a selection from the best females to make clones. Then grow the best clones and take care of them. ✨

Jorge Cervantes is the author of Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados (July 2009), Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible (January 2006), Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD (shot in BC) and Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II (shot in Spain), Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible, Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens, Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing and Jorge's Rx. He writes for 20 magazines in 10 different languages, including Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Hit marijuanagrowing.com for more information.



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OUTDOORS

Warmer temperatures in many parts of the world make it possible to harvest longer in many climates. But you've probably noticed that the weather is more unstable in many climate zones. There might be earlier or later autumn and spring weather; summers can be super-hot and winters cold and packed with snow, or vice versa. Rainstorms and bad weather are also prone to occur at inopportune moments. The wind and rain are still the worst climatic obstacles to an abundant harvest. Nevertheless, southern growers should be able to enjoy warm weather, but they could also be plagued with extra pests and diseases.

Water plants and make sure they have enough moisture. Plants should have adequate amounts of water until a few days before harvest. Irrigate backyard and container plants every day if they need it. Water guerrilla patches every week.

Do not fertilize plants for the two weeks before harvest. Give plants that will be harvested plain water or a 5% fertilizer solution. This will allow them to use up the existing fertilizers that are available in the foliage and surrounding soil. You can also add sugar in the form of molasses or fructose to the water to help swell buds; this will feed the soil life. Mix at the rate of 1 tablespoon per quart of water. Stop watering altogether three to four days before harvest.

Heavy rains will soak buds and break branches. Shake plants during and after rainstorms to keep the buds from becoming too heavy and waterlogged; this will also help prevent bud mold. If possible, cover your plants with plastic to avoid rain. Stake, trellis and tie up plants so that their stems do not break. Broken stems can be tied or duct-taped back together.

Pests and diseases could still cause major problems, especially during warm weather. Budworms can be very bad now. Manually check your buds for green budworms. If you find them, spray the plants with aerosol pyrethrum and shake



Proper planning during spring and summer leads to huge tree trunks in the fall.

them to knock the worms out. Use *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a natural bait, to control budworms. Budworm feces can cause more problems than their holes, because it attracts mold in the buds. Spider mites can also be a problem in warm climates. Kill them with applications of aerosol pyrethrum or Einstein Oil (neem oil). Always inspect buds and leaf undersides for pests and diseases.

Harvest ripe plants! Cut down nearly ripe plants if a big storm coming—heavy, stormy weather can wreck plants so badly that they won't recover before harvest. Check buds carefully for peak ripeness with a 30x handheld microscope. Set the scope on a resinous bud and look at the resin glands. When ripe, most of these glands will be transparent to translucent, with a well-formed ball on top of a little stalk. Buds start to deteriorate when the ball on the stalk starts to degrade and deform. At peak ripeness, these resin glands are still intact and healthy.

Move clones outdoors in mild climates where freezes are uncommon.

INDOORS

Go to hightimes.com for the best indoor-grow information available on the Internet.

School is back in session, and fall schedules return to normal. Many growers start a new garden indoors this month. Plant now for a winter crop even if the outdoor crop was big. You do not want to run out of dope!

Outdoor temperatures begin to cool now, and the indoor temperatures cool as well. You will notice the biggest fluctuation in temperatures at night. When the temperature drops at night, it causes humidity to rise—and when the humidity rises in a growroom, it can cause problems. Use a vent fan to expel humid air at night and keep the humidity level at 50% to help control fungus and pests.

Spider mites often sneak into growrooms at this time of year. They have an uncanny ability to do so. The best insurance to keep these undesirable pests out of your grow area is to use clean tools, wear clean clothes, and keep the area clean! Once a room is infested with spider mites, they are very difficult to eliminate.

Check the pH and EC (ppm) of the nutrient solution and record water consumption on graph paper. In general, plants will use less water in relation to fertilizer this month. Sometimes the change is gradual, and at other times sudden. Look at the graph of pH, water use and EC weekly, and make fertilizer changes based on your findings.

Lubricate ventilation and circulations fans. Quiet, well-running circulation and vent fans keep humidity low, the air stirred up, and bud fungus at bay. Train the circulation fan on the garden canopy so that the leaves wave a little bit. Rustling leaves ensure that fresh CO₂ is available for the leaves to take in.

Maintain the temperature at or near 75°F during the day and 65°F to 70°F at night. Growth slows as the nighttime temperatures fall, so keeping the temperature constant is one of the tricks to increasing yield.

Take clones for your next crop. Grow clones for two to three weeks, at least until they have a strong, healthy root system.

Harvest ripe, resin-squirting buds and plants and get ready for the next crop.

Harden off clones, seedlings and old mother plants to plant outdoors for a short crop.

Clean up your growroom and keep it that way. Cleanliness never causes problems! ✨

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OLIVER STONE TALKS TO HIGH TIMES

The brilliant and controversial Oliver Stone has made some of the smartest—and most inflammatory—movies of the past 20 years: *JFK*, *Nixon*, *W.*, *Salvador*, *Natural Born Killers*, *Any Given Sunday* and many others have consistently rattled America's cage. But Stone's audacious cinematic career continues to flourish. Senior editor Dan Skye interviews the legendary filmmaker about Hollywood, war, drugs and much more for our 35th-anniversary issue.

CANNABIS CUP PREVIEW, PART II

In the second installment of this year's guide to the 2009 Cannabis Cup, cultivation editor Nico Escondido talks to two of Amsterdam's premier seed breeders: Arjan from the Green House Seed Company and Luc from Paradise Seeds. Get a peek at what's in store for our 22nd annual pot competition and start making a list of the strains you want to burn!

THE HISTORY OF HAZE

For years, the wildly popular cannabis variety known as Haze has inspired heated debate as to its ancestry and origins. Finally, HIGH TIMES unearths the true story on the illustrious provenance and genetic history of this sainted *sativa* strain.

REMEMBERING TOM FORÇADE

The legendary founder of HIGH TIMES is remembered by his family and friends. The saga of Tom Forçade is an amazing tale of a man who smuggled millions of dollars' worth of marijuana and sought to create a publishing empire.

BLACK TUNA: OUT OF THE CAN

After serving 29 years, the most talked-about marijuana smuggler of the '70s finally breaks his silence. Released from custody in 2008, Robert Platshorn (a.k.a. the Black Tuna) recalls the years he spent bringing in multi-ton shipments of Colombian grass, the joint DEA-FBI investigation that took him down, and his three decades as a celebrity prisoner. These days, the Black Tuna is putting his life back together as a new leader in the marijuana-legalization movement.

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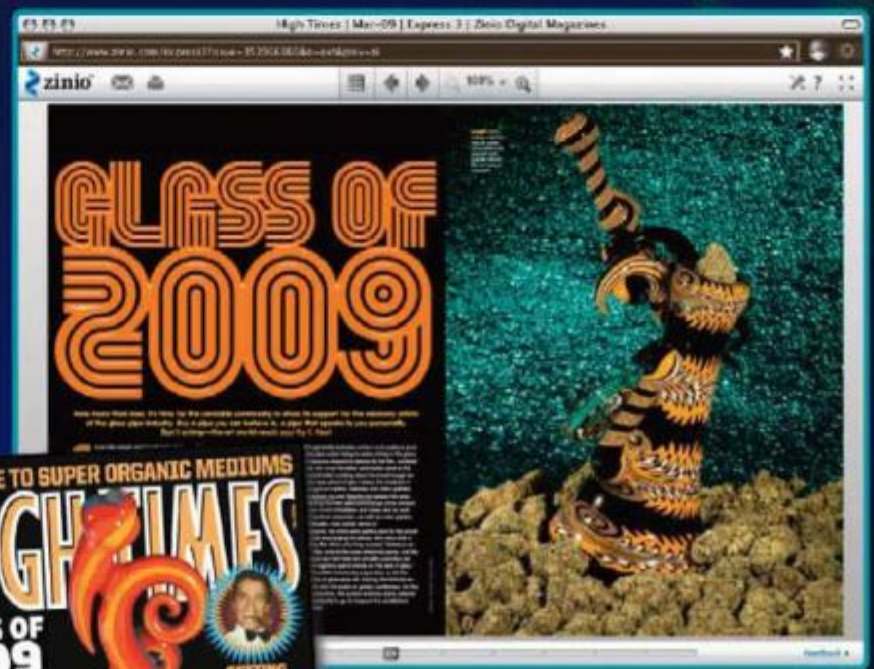
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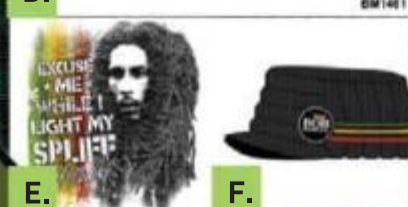
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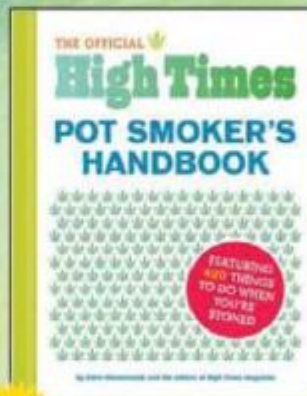
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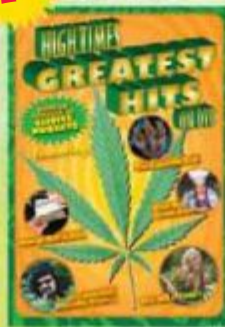
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OFFICIAL HIGH TIMES POT SMOKER'S HANDBOOK

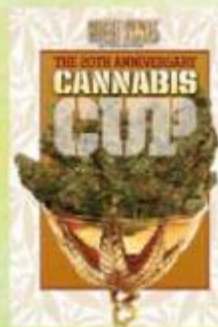
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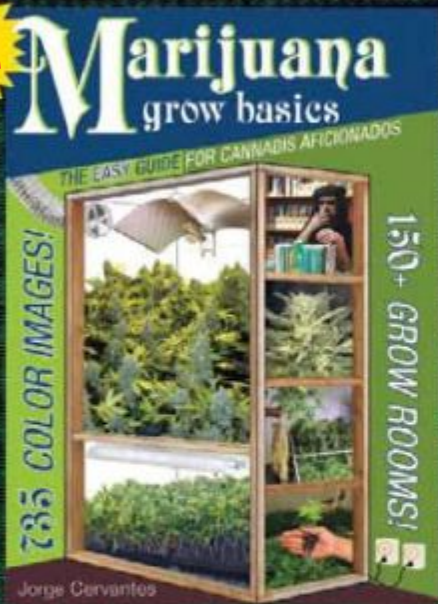
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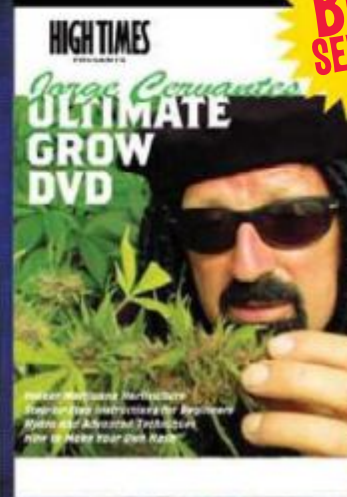
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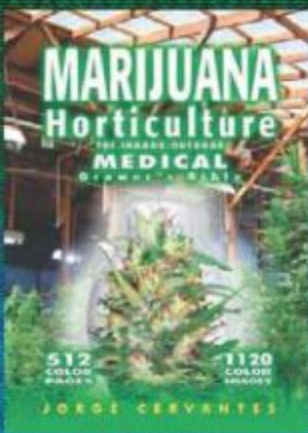
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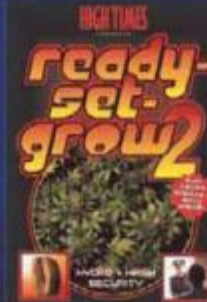
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